

# the otherpress

The Douglas College Newspaper Since 1976

Volume 47

October 20, 2020

Issue 7



## Murder at Stanley Park

An interview with a  
Vancouver homicide detective



## True crime can be an awful hobby

Janis McMath  
Editor-in-Chief

True crime has skyrocketed in popularity in recent years, and with little resistance. If you need proof, look no further than CrimeCon—it's like ComicCon but instead with murder nerds. Podcast top ten lists usually have a true crime podcast in their mix; it's all the rage to engage in this gruesome hobby. While an interest in true crime certainly offers many upsides, it should not be normalized without some necessary warnings. This hobby comes with more real-life consequences than many other fandoms; true crime is not to be taken lightly.

Before we look at the problems, it is important to acknowledge the positives of the true crime fascination. Fans often offer donations and support the families of those affected; some YouTubers take the initiative to donate part of their earnings from their true crime content to organizations that help victims and prevent crimes. Fans can even lead to the reopening of cases. For example, the *Tiger King* rage has led to police looking for new leads in the cold case, and the podcast *Murder Squad* even had a listener submit DNA that led to the arrest of a killer in her extended family. Positive communities that offer support and reaffirmation are made in these fandoms. True crime also has a lot of educational and entertainment value.

But it is essential to consider the downsides with a hobby that deals with such terrifying topics, as it undoubtedly has mental health repercussions to look at. This hobby literally entails doing deep-dive research into the grisly murders of other human beings. A 2010 study called "Captured by True Crime" concludes that women like true crime more than men. The same study also found that women prefer

to watch true crime series that focus on women as the victims. There are articles and blogs everywhere where women state that they reason they are interested in true crime is because they want to prevent themselves from being victimized. This is flawed logic; there is no way to prevent many of the murders that have occurred regardless of whatever precautions could have been taken. This can only serve to make the viewer think of themselves as a victim often, turning them into a super paranoid person.

A study called "Association Between Fear of Crime and Mental Health and Physical Functioning" showed that fear of crime had a "surprisingly weak relationship" with the actual recorded crime rate occurring in a person's neighbourhood. Hobbies are often used to unwind and relax, meanwhile the hobby of true crime often causes unnecessary stress that is not based on relevant statistics. True crime YouTubers I have watched often state that they cry when they compile the information for their videos. Is this what we want from our hobbies? We should not carry such an emotional burden on a regular basis.

Desensitization is another huge worry when it comes to consuming true crime too liberally. Fans can get caught up in the dramatic characters, love affairs, shocking turns, and exciting pacing of true crime. They get so lost they forget that these aren't fictitious stories they can harmlessly participate in the fandoms of. Armchair detectives can have real negative impacts on real families. True crime fans have been known to harass the families of victims and bring a lot of unnecessary pressure to them through forced stardom. These fans also love to speculate, regardless of whether or not they have enough evidence to make claims—and we all know that simple



Photo-illustration by Sonam Kaloti

speculations have the power to destroy people's reputations.

Fans also have been known to do walking tours where bodies have been found, buy t-shirts with a killer's face on it, and trek out to the hometowns of victims to get a cute photo-op at their favourite murder site. These things can reintroduce trauma to the living victims of those murders. Some true crime shows (Netflix's *I Am A Killer* for example) publish content regardless of the wishes of the suffering family. This hobby can't ethically be enjoyed in the same way many other hobbies can with fun merchandise and cute inside jokes, but many seem to ignore the ethical point—creating a harmful culture. Grieving families who have experienced such horrific events should have to worry about yet another thing in their life.

As true crime grows in popularity, so does its validity as a form of entertainment. All fandoms come with their downsides, and true crime definitely poses some very harmful downsides to many individuals. The hobby clearly has some equally significant upsides, so this is by no means a condemnation to those who are interested or already invested in true crime. This is just to say that true crime should be enjoyed responsibly—both with consideration to one's mental health and the welfare of the victims involved.

On to Cincinnati,

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Janis McMath


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
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




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The Other Press has been Douglas College's student newspaper since 1976. Since 1978 we have been an autonomous publication, independent of the student union. We are a registered society under the Society Act of British Columbia, governed by an eight-person board of directors appointed by our staff. Our head office is located in the New Westminster campus.

The Other Press is published weekly during the fall and winter semesters, and monthly during the summer. We receive our funding from a student levy collected through tuition fees every semester at registration, and from local and national advertising revenue. The Other Press is a member of the Canadian University Press (CUP), a syndicate of student newspapers that includes papers from all across Canada.

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- More than a thousand protest mandatory masks and lockdowns
  - Fire in the disco!
  - Did Trump condemn white supremacy?
- ...and more

## Counsellors day at Douglas sees record turnout success

› Online events: a constant after COVID times?

Jessica Berget  
Assistant Editor

On October 2, Douglas College hosted its annual Counsellors Day event. The event was made for high school counsellors across BC to learn about new programs and services that they can use to further help their students. Normally, this would be the time of year at Douglas when we see high school counsellors touring either of the college campuses, but this year (for COVID related reasons), the event was moved to an online platform—and was met with more success than that in previous years.

To find out more about this event, why Douglas hosts it, and what made this year's turnout so successful, the *Other Press* talked to the Manager of the Future Students Office at Douglas College, Eric Glanville. He says that the college has been hosting this event (produced by the future student's office) since 2007, but other departments have done it as well in the years prior. Having never heard of it, I asked why Douglas hosts this event each year and why it is significant. "High school counsellors are some of the most important partners we have in the community. They help to educate students about what Douglas College has to offer and

support them through the exploration and application phase of their post-secondary career. [We] host this event to provide counsellors with the information and contacts that they need to perform these activities successfully," said Glanville in an email to the *Other Press*.

Some might think the presence of a virus would put a halt to this event, yet it had more success in an online format. Glanville mentions with it being online, a new record was set for the event's registrations. "By the time the event started, there were 129 counsellors on the guest list. This is 30 percent more than our previous record. 91 counsellors attended all or part of the sessions of that day—another record," he said. "Usually, all high school counsellors from Lower Mainland schools would attend, but with it being online this year, counsellors from all around BC were able to participate." Glanville even mentions the possibility of having future meetings be a in-person/online hybrid because of this year's success. "Given the advantages that we have seen in all of our new online services, it's quite likely that we will pursue a hybrid model of on-campus and online events in the future. This would allow us to restore the value of face-to-face interactions while preserving some of the



unique benefits of web-based platforms."

While there are some challenges with hosting events like this online, the benefits of an online format arguably outweigh the negatives. Glanville says it took some time to find the best platform and process for this event along with some logistical errors and technical difficulties, as with every online seminar. Yet, having it online offers many more advantages. "We had counsellors from schools as far away as Kelowna and Fernie, who would almost

certainly not be able to join a live event on campus," said Glanville.

While online formats do take away much of the personability of in-person meetings, there is something to be said about the accessibility of using online formats for meetings, events, and classes. Will Douglas continue to use online formats after in-person classes begin again? Only time will tell.

## Mo money, fewer problems?

› Specific group of homeless people given money in study succeed in exiting homelessness

Craig Allan  
Staff Writer

The issue of homelessness is a hot button topic for Vancouver. With tent cities springing up in many parts of the Lower Mainland, many are wondering what the solution is to ending homelessness. There are old sayings about money, like "Mo money, mo problems," and "You can't throw money at a problem and make it go away," but according to a study from a research group at the University of British Columbia, that may just be the solution.

Homelessness may seem look like a years long endeavour, but the truth is, most homeless people in Canada are only homeless for about a month. While there are some homeless people experience this long term, that is a minority in the homeless community. For many, it not chronic, and in most cases is actually just a one-time occurrence.

In an experiment covered by the New Leaf Project, people who had been homeless for at least six months and did



not have any drug addiction issues were given \$7500 to spend on whatever they wanted. The results were, according to

Claire Williams, CEO of Foundations for Social Change, "beautifully surprising." A year after the experiment started,

results found that not only had the testers spent the money on necessary life needs like housing, food, medicine, and transportation, but they also managed to have \$1000 left over after 12 months. The article did not mention if there were any test subjects who failed to spend the money responsibly.

Some may have the perception that homeless people mismanage money, but this trial shows the opposite—at least in this sample size of 115 people. Considering that taxpayers indirectly pay \$55,000 per homeless individual, this direct form of monetary assistance would actually save taxpayers almost half-a-million dollars a year. The study also had a control group of people who were not given any money to use as a comparison. The study found that the people without the influx of cash took longer to get out of poverty; it took them five months compared to the three months it took for the group who received money.

It is unknown if this study would work with people who are drug addicted or suffering through mental disabilities.



# Vancouver Coastal Health unmask the motion for mandatory face coverings

› Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung wants Vancouver to follow Delta's lead

Janis McMath  
Editor-in-Chief

On October 20, Vancouver Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung intends to bring forth a bill that makes masks mandatory in all indoor public buildings. Delta is already implementing similar measures in their city facilities, Richmond is seriously considering it and will vote on it soon—while White Rock councillors unanimously declined a similar proposal.

A poll by Leger from July showed that 73 percent of BC parents approved of mandatory mask rules in schools, so there is evidence of public support for mandatory masks—but Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) strongly recommends declining this motion.

The two top medical health officers in Vancouver Coastal Health, Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Patricia Daily and Deputy Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Mark Lysyshyn, both highlight the issues that come with mandatory mask laws. In a letter, the two state that such a law could bar access to crucial services for those who lack the funds to obtain masks and lead to further “stigmatization and marginalization” for those who are poor. They also state that those who have underlying health issues that prevent them from wearing masks will also suffer the consequences. Additionally, staff at these civic service centres shouldn't be given the role of determining who qualifies for an exemption.

On her bill, Kirby-Yung cites recent research—like an SFU study that looked at the relationship between mask mandates

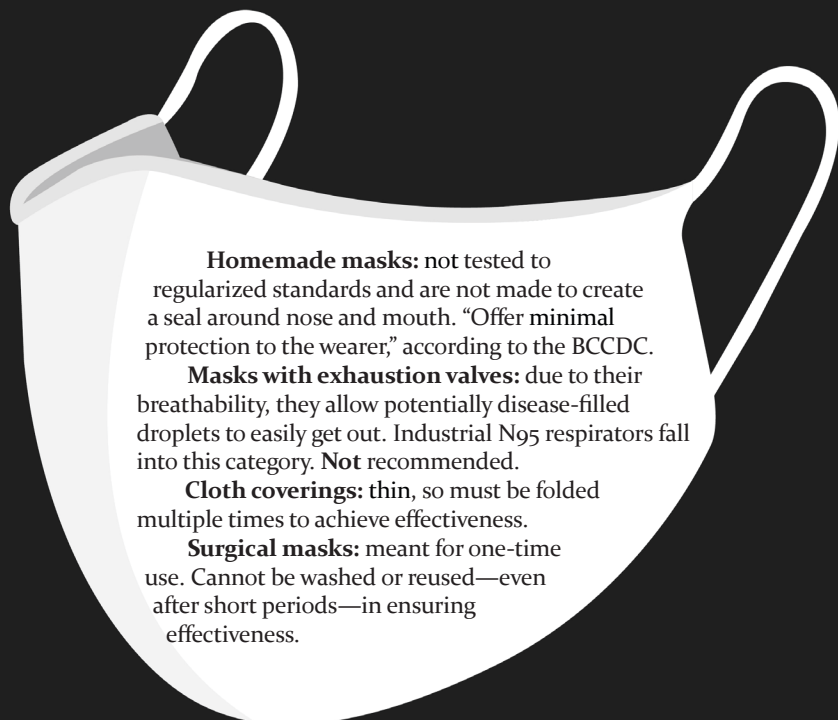
and a drop in COVID-19 cases. On the motion she drafted, she stated to *Glacier Media* that “some studies that have yet to be peer-reviewed—but should be hopefully soon—do indicate that masks can play an important role when people cannot physically distance in indoor spaces.”

Chief and deputy chief officers of VCH cite the “excellent COVID-19 safety plans in place at city facilities, and the relatively low rate of COVID-19 infection in the local population” as reasons to avoid mandatory-mask laws. The doctors also pointed out that wearing non-medical masks is one of the least effective measures, and these laws should not replace more effective measures like isolating at home when unwell, small social groups, and keeping physically distanced when around strangers. The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) offers an informational document called “Face Masks: How are they different?” which similarly explains that masks and gloves are lowest on the rung of protective measures and that masks are only effective when worn properly for short periods. In January, the BCCDC also warned that “masks may give a person a false sense of security and are likely to increase the number of times a person will touch their own face—to adjust the mask,” and Dr. Bonnie Henry has echoed this statement in the past.

For those that are hoping to see the bill go through, Kirby reminds that the council has previously gone against the recommendations of Vancouver Coastal Health (from example, when they relaxed regulations of pot sales in the Downtown Eastside and voted yes to public drinking in Vancouver).



## MASK LIMITATIONS TO KEEP IN MIND





# Vancouver Mega Freedom Rally

› More than a thousand protest mandatory masks and lockdowns

Michelle Lim  
Contributor

Protestors gathered on October 17 and 18 to protest lockdowns and mandatory masks laws across Canada—like those in Quebec and Ontario.





# Fire in the disco!

› Another fire breaks out in New West as police charge man for previous pier park damage



Illustration by Athena Little

Jessica Berget  
Assistant Editor

This year has not been easy on New Westminster. On top of COVID damaging both the food service and business sectors, the city has been subject to not one but two major fires—with 29 days between them.

The September 13 New Westminster Pier Park fire was extinguished after 10 days. Another fire was reported at a Queensborough neighbourhood on October 12 in the plastic recycling plant and is now being treated as possibly suspicious. In an interview with CTV News, Assistant Deputy Chief Rob Dick said that surveillance videos are being investigated because “it was raining for the last two days quite heavily, no electrical outlets present,” to CTV News. “The fact that the fire started with no real cause, we are treating it as a suspicious fire at this point.”

More than 40 firefighters, including some called in from Delta and Richmond, assisted with the extinguishing and were able to control the fire after several hours. Thankfully, this fire was not nearly as damaging as the one from last month, which is estimated to cost about \$10 million to repair.

According to New Westminster Police, a man has now been criminally charged for the fire at Pier Park which destroyed much of the pier and the iconic “W” statue. On October 13, Sean Warnick, a 49-year-old man, was charged with mischief to property over \$5000 and damaging property with arson. He has since been released from custody with conditions and made a scheduled court appearance on October 14, according to CTV News.

But what motivates people to deliberately set fires? According to *Psychology Today*, fire setting is recognized as a mental illness attribute—a behaviour that stems from other deeply rooted issues, as it can be an “irresistible compulsion” for some people. They also say arson is used as a weapon of revenge or for other destructive aims and that it is more common among males (females commit nearly one third of deliberate fires), and victims of sexual abuse. Fire setters also tend to be socially isolated and lack coping skills with a prevalence of suicide being higher with those who set fires deliberately. Furthermore, according to Firehouse, a media outlet aimed at education for fire/rescue professionals, there are six motive classifications associated with fire starters: vandalism, excitement, revenge, crime concealment, profit, and extremism.



## Fact-check

› Did Trump condemn white supremacy?

Timothy Easling  
Contributor

Many news organizations have reported Donald Trump throughout his presidential term as refusing to condemn white supremacy. Yet in contradiction to these many outlets, Trump has repeatedly condemned white supremacy and disavowed any public support offered him from racist organizations.

Agencies such as ABC have commented themselves along with allowing comments from characters such as Joe Biden: “He’s yet once to condemn white supremacy, the neo-Nazis. He hasn’t condemned a darn thing.”

Kamala Harris has also gone on the attack without a fact-check on CNN—among others: “The president of the

United States, in the year of our lord 2020, refuses to condemn white supremacists.”

While far from a complete summary of Trump’s public condemnations of racism, here is a collection of quotes from over the years.

“...David Duke just joined. A bigot, a racist, a problem.” – February 14, 2000

“David Duke endorsed me? Okay, alright, I disavow, okay?” – February 26, 2016

“I’ve disavowed David Duke all weekend long on Facebook, on Twitter, and obviously it’s never enough.” – February 29, 2016

“I totally disavow the Ku Klux Klan. I totally disavow David Duke. Ultimately he got to the Ku Klux Klan, which obviously I’m going to disavow.” – March 3, 2016

CBS’ John Dickerson: “David Duke is saying to his supporters and followers, vote

for Donald Trump. White supremacists are saying vote [...] do you want those votes?”

Trump: “No, I don’t want them and I don’t want him to say it [...] I don’t like any group of hate. Hate groups are not for me. But I have said this before. The press hates me to say it. They just don’t want to pick it up.” – March 6, 2016

“Racism is evil—and those who cause violence in its name are criminals and thugs, including KKK, neo-Nazis, white supremacists, and other hate groups are repugnant to everything we hold dear as Americans.” – August 14, 2017

“I’m not talking about the neo-Nazis and white supremacists because they should be condemned totally.” – August 15, 2017

“In one voice our nation must condemn racism, bigotry, and white supremacy.” – August 5, 2019

“Any group of hate, I don’t like it.

Any group of hate, whether it’s white supremacy, whether it’s any other kind of supremacy, whether it’s Antifa, whether it’s any group of hate, I’m very concerned about it and I’ll do something about it.” – August 7, 2019

During the debate, Trump was asked if he was willing to condemn white supremacists and militia groups and he replied as he had during the many years leading up to the debate: “Sure. I’m willing to do that,” before putting the question in the context that Chris Wallace had asked it (riots over the summer, such as Kenosha): “I would say almost everything I see is from the left wing.”

Have something you want fact-checked? Send it in to us at [news@theotherpress.ca](mailto:news@theotherpress.ca)!



# SPORTS

- NHL free agency sweepstakes underway
  - Severed contact approach taken by leagues proves successful
  - The legend of Babe Ruth
- ...and more!

## The legend of Babe Ruth

› From Kamloops to the NBA finals

Brandon Yip  
Senior Columnist

Babe Ruth came to Vancouver. No, not the candy bar Baby Ruth—the baseball superstar, and monster home run hitter for the prestigious pin-striped New York Yankees.

Yes, in October 1934, Ruth made a trip to the Canadian West Coast as part of a contingent of athletes touring together. The players were passengers aboard the Empress of Japan and were scheduled to play a set of 17 exhibition games in Japan. Before setting on their voyage to Japan, they made a temporary stop in Vancouver.

Ruth had visited Vancouver before in November 1926, when he was in the city during a promotional tour. Ruth had participated in numerous publicity photos at the now demolished Pantages Theatre—one photo had him holding a bat in a hitting pose with Vancouver Mayor, Louis Taylor, being the catcher. Also in the photo was Chief of Police Long as the umpire.

Nonetheless, for his latest trip to Vancouver, Ruth stayed at the Hotel Vancouver and local photographers snapped photos of him wearing striped pajamas with a bright nightgown. He was lounging in his hotel suite and seemed to be enjoying himself. As well, he was seen smoking a pipe, savouring a roast duck dinner, and going for a routine shave—tipping a grand 25 cents.

Ruth would later speak with reporters during his stay in Vancouver, hinting that he was considering retiring from baseball. “I’ve played 21 seasons of major-league ball. I guess that’s enough, but it sure will be tough,” Ruth said. “My batting is as good as ever, but my legs won’t carry me. Now about managing a big-league ball club, I sure would like that if I could get a chance [...] I definitely won’t be playing next year. I don’t want to make a fool of myself.” Ruth then added, “Not for the money. No sir, not for twice the money.”

On October 20, 1934, Athletic Park would be the host for a rainy exhibition game played by the All Americans, including Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig. Their opponents would be a young roster comprised of local semi-professional ball players. Athletic Park was a wood-built ballpark located in False Creek, near the corner of Hemlock Street and Fifth Avenue. Commenting on Vancouver’s rainy weather, Ruth reportedly told his teammates “if these people can take the weather, so can we. We’re gonna give ‘em a ball game.” Along with Ruth and Gehrig, other players on the team were Lefty Gomez, Charlie Gehringer, and Lefty O’Doul. The latter would later become the manager for the



Illustration by Udeshi Seneviratne

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**Ruth stayed at the Hotel Vancouver and local photographers snapped photos of him wearing striped pajamas with a bright nightgown.**

Vancouver Mounties team when the Pacific Coast League would make its local debut in 1956.

Billy Adshead, an infielder, remembers what it was like playing against the All Americans. “We were overwhelmed when we saw Ruth and these fellers,” Adshead said in an interview with *The Tyee* marking the 60th anniversary of the game. “All of us wanted to be big league ball players and here they were in the flesh right in our own park.”

Unfortunately, the exhibition game in Vancouver would be overshadowed by the heavy rainfall. The game was not cancelled, as it went the full nine innings—ending

in a 2-2 tie. Despite the uncooperative Vancouver weather, Ruth tried to entertain the fans. During the game, Ruth attempted to hit one of his trademark home runs. However, he hit two long foul balls instead. But it appeared the local team of semi-professionals played hard, while Ruth and his All Americans gave a lackluster effort—not taking the exhibition game seriously.

Subsequently, Athletic Park continued to be used as a ballpark, but it was later demolished in the early 1950s to build an on-ramp for the Granville Street Bridge. Babe Ruth finished his illustrious career with the Boston Braves in May 1935. Yet he will be mostly recognized as a New York

Yankee from 1920 to 1934. Ruth finished his baseball career with 714 home runs, 2,873 hits, 2,214 runs batted in (RBIs), and a .342 batting average.

Finally, Ruth and the All Americans left Vancouver the next day, boarding their ship bound for Japan. It made a brief stop in Victoria. Babe Ruth had a lot of confidence. And that swagger and self-assurance was evident during his brief appearance on the west coast. Reporters in Victoria asked Ruth how he was going to do against Japanese pitching. Ruth replied, “I’ve been knocking baseballs around for 21 years and I guess I’ll knock a few more in Japan.”



# NHL free agency sweepstakes underway

› Canucks lose some familiar faces to free agency



Photo by Michelle Lim

**Brandon Yip**  
Senior Columnist

The NHL free agent frenzy is well under way. This is the pandemic version; normally free agency starts on July 1. This year, it began on October 9. Players are moving from teams faster than people trying to move into a line up at the “nine items or less” checkout counter at the grocery store.

Jamie Fitzpatrick’s article, “Fundamentals of the NHL’s Free Agent System” on [liveaboutdotcom](http://liveaboutdotcom), outline portions of the 2013 NHL collective bargaining agreement—explaining the rules of free agency. NHL players who turn 27 years of age or those who have played a minimum of seven years in the NHL can declare themselves an unrestricted free agent. Players who are restricted free agents need the current team to extend a “qualifying offer” to that player in order to maintain negotiating rights to that

player. Thus, the player will become an unrestricted free agent if the team does not extend a qualifying offer. Also, if a player declines to accept a qualifying offer, he will remain a restricted free agent.

Unfortunately for Canuck fans, the Canucks lost four players to free agency. Popular goaltender Jacob Markstrom signed a six-year 36-million-dollar contract with the Calgary Flames. Also joining Markstrom is Chris Tanev, who signed a four-year contract worth \$18 million. In addition, Richmond native Troy Stecher signed a two-year deal with the Detroit Red Wings worth \$3.4 million. Sniper Tyler Toffoli inked a four-year 17-million-dollar contract with the Montreal Canadiens. However, the Canucks made a trade on October 12 to acquire defenseman, Nate Schmidt, from the Vegas Golden Knights. Schmidt comes to Vancouver in exchange for a third-round pick in the 2022 NHL Draft.

In spite of this, some Canuck fans may not agree with the team not resigning Markstrom. He proved last season that

he could be a solid dependable number one goalie. Markstrom had set career high numbers for himself before the pandemic interrupted the NHL season in March. Markstrom had a 23-16-4 record with a goals-against average of 2.75—including a save percentage of .918. In addition, Markstrom was playing with a very heavy heart as his father, Anders, passed away from cancer at age 59 in November 2019.

Furthermore, during the 2020 playoffs in Edmonton, Markstrom’s record was 8 wins and 6 losses, with a 2.85 goals against average. He had a .919 save percentage and one shutout. Unfortunately, Markstrom was injured during the second round against the Vegas Golden Knights. Thatcher Demko took over goaltending duties for the last three games of the series. Demko played well, despite the Canucks losing the series to Vegas in seven games.

Nevertheless, Markstrom was a fan favourite especially with his fiery competitiveness and nature. As the old cliché states, one does not “suffer fools

gladly.” Markstrom did not suffer letting in bad goals gladly as he was always hard on himself and accountable after letting in a bad goal or having a poor game. On the other hand, Markstrom is now 30 years old, and he was injured during the Vegas series—making him expendable.

Lastly, the Canucks now have a decent goaltending tandem with Thatcher Demko and the recent signing of Braden Holtby from the Washington Capitals. Holtby signed a two-year 8.6-million-dollar contract. It is a good contract for both sides, as Holtby will provide solid goaltending for the Canucks with his experience. Plus, he has a Stanley Cup ring as a member of the Capitals in 2018. It will be interesting now to see what Canuck GM, Jim Benning, will do to replace the void left by the departure of the four now former Canuck players.

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**Nevertheless, Markstrom was a fan favourite especially with his fiery competitiveness and nature.**



# The NHL and NBA finish their seasons with no positive cases of coronavirus

› Severed contact approach taken by leagues proves successful

Mo Hussain  
Sports Reporter

When reflecting on these past NHL and NBA seasons respectively, it's quite remarkable to see how both leagues managed to coordinate the continuation of their seasons despite the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Back in March, both the NBA and NHL among many other sporting leagues suspended league play within 48 hours after the coronavirus was officially declared as a pandemic by the WHO.

At the time, it could've been very difficult for anyone to see how both leagues would manage to return to play considering how many different variables would have to be in line in order for a comeback to be feasible. Whether it is figuring out how to bring all of the players and personnel from every team, finding a place that would fit all of them in, catering, how to bring in members of the media, and dealing with all the other

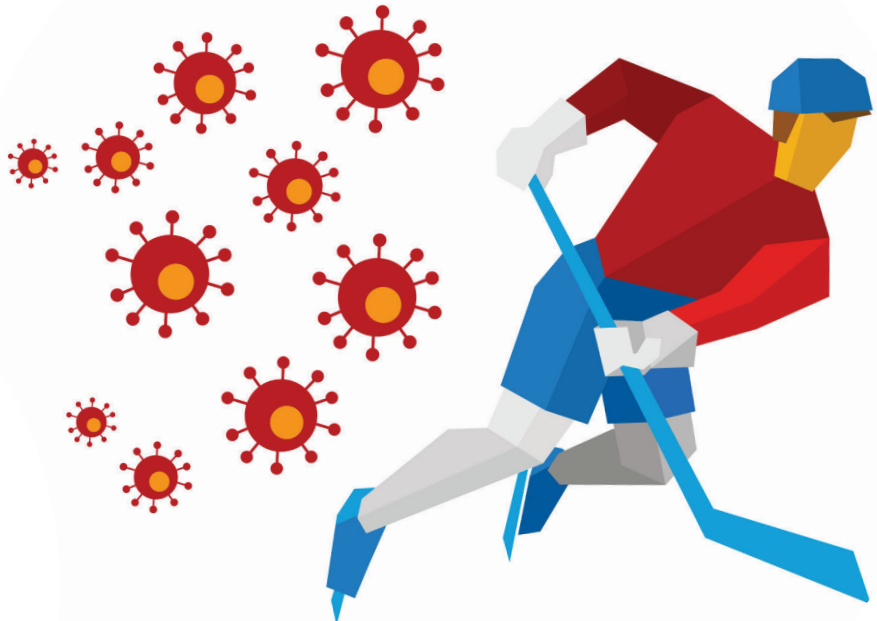
factors that come with coronavirus.

However, as time went on, both leagues managed to resume on July 30 (NBA) and August 1 (NHL). Fast forward to today, and both leagues somehow managed to finish their entire seasons with both leagues (NBA and NHL) luckily seeing no positive tests for coronavirus.

"The NBA, like the NHL, succeeded with COVID because they essentially



eradicated the virus in a small population and almost totally severed their face-to-face contact with the outside world," said



epidemiologist Zachary Binney in a tweet.

As for what is going to happen next season, the NHL is looking to bring back its season relatively soon:

"Based upon what we have learned and what we know and what we still don't know, I can say that we are now focused on a Jan 1 start for next season," said Gary Bettman, commissioner of the NHL.

As one could imagine, the NBA still has to get through its draft and free agency season before completely setting their sights on the start of next season. However, according to NBA commissioner Adam Silver, he says his "best guess for the start of 2020-21 season would be in 2021."

## Three big NHL off-season moves that are worth noting

› What does the future hold for these players and their new contracts?

Mo Hussain  
Sports Reporter

Aside from what mainly happened with the Canucks this off-season, there are plenty of other big moves that teams made during this year's free agent season. Here are three big free agent moves from this year's offseason that shifted a bit of the hockey landscape.

### Blues make some changes

The 2019 Stanley cup champions have had quite an interesting past couple of months. In addition to losing in the first round of the playoffs, the team just went through a massive change with the departure of former captain Alex Pietrangelo, and the arrival of Torey Krug. Krug, who picked up 49 points with the Boston Bruins last year, was signed for \$45,500,000 over the course of seven

years and will join Justin Faulk and Colton Parayko on St. Louis' blue line. Meanwhile, Pietrangelo, who picked up 52 points with the Blues, agreed to an eight-year \$61,600,000 deal with the Vegas Golden Knights.

Pietrangelo's decision to depart from St. Louis wasn't an easy one; "It wasn't as easy as maybe some people think it was for us. When you have your roots tied here and you've been here for so long, it's definitely a difficult decision. But I tried to take as much emotion out of it as I could," said Pietrangelo in an interview on NHL.com. It will be interesting to see how both the Blues and Pietrangelo will fare without each other this upcoming season

### One last run

After 15 seasons with the San Jose Sharks, veteran Joe Thornton has decided to take his talents back to the eastern conference. Thornton, who was last a part of the

eastern conference playing for the Boston Bruins, agreed to sign a one-year \$700,000 contract with the Toronto Maple Leafs. "This team is you know a very very good team and I need to win a Stanley cup and I think this is a great team that can do that," said Thornton to Mike Zeisberger of NHL.com in a media call.

Throughout his career, Thornton has accomplished pretty much everything there is in the hockey world. This includes a 2010 Olympic gold medal, Hart Memorial trophy, art ross trophy, and he reached the Stanley Cup finals back in 2016.

However, the 41-year-old has yet to capture the Stanley Cup, and it will be interesting to see if this move to Toronto will help accomplish that.

### Interesting move for Buffalo

This offseason also saw the Buffalo Sabres agree to sign former Hart Memorial trophy winner Taylor Hall to a one-year \$8,000,000

contract. Hall will join the Sabres with the hopes of helping bring them back into a competitive playoff contender.

"Even before free agency, Buffalo was a place that I told my agent Darren Ferris that I would think about playing there. It would be something that I think would be enjoyable and I'm really glad that we're here," said Hall in a TSN video call.

Hall, who picked up a combined 52 points in 65 games playing for both the New Jersey Devils and the Arizona Coyotes, said that the decision to only sign for one year can help keep his options open moving forward.

"It went from wanting to get a six or seven-year contract to thinking hey maybe a one-year deal might be best for me financially and personally. And then we can see what the landscape of the NHL and really the whole US and Canada looks like after that," said Hall in the same video.



- River Phoenix, a promise unfulfilled
- Convincing zombies and shallow storytelling
- Chilling songs for the spooky season ...and more

# Nicolas Cage in his Cagiest performance ever

› 'Vampire's Kiss' film review



Still from 'Vampire's Kiss' trailer via Shout! Factory on YouTube

“

**Cage goes all out in a bonkers performance that has to be seen to be believed.**

Craig Allan  
Staff Writer

★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

Since the dawn of movies just before the turn of the 19th century, there have been actors that have cemented themselves as legends. Some, like Laurence Olivier and Katharine Hepburn are lauded for their great acting abilities. Others, like James Dean and Marilyn Monroe, are legends because their careers ended too soon. Then there are actors who go down as legends not because of the movies they did, or the awards they won, but for their utterly unique acting style that transcends what is good and bad—that is the space that Nicolas Cage occupies.

Cage has cemented himself as one of the greatest actors of all time—not because of the awards he has won, but because of his manic style. His raw, unhinged performances have become the stuff

of legends. Nowhere is this style more apparent than in the 1988 movie *Vampire's Kiss* (VK), where Cage goes all out in a bonkers performance that has to be seen to be believed.

The film (of which I did not know the plot of entirely) is about a man who believes he has been bitten by a vampire Rachel (Jennifer Beals), and begins to freak out at his predicament. I had always been aware of it due to moments from the film entering pop culture, like Cage's wily eyed staring meme, or his passionate reciting of the alphabet, but I had never seen the whole film. With it being shown as part of The Rio's unofficial "Nick International Film Festival," I could not miss my chance to see it, and boy, is it something.

Cage's role of Peter Loew is all over the place in this film. From berating his secretary Alva (María Conchita Alonso) on her inability to find a lost contract, to running around the streets of New York screaming "I'm a vampire! I'm a vampire! I'm a vampire!"—to having a hallucinated

therapy session in front of a building—Cage is so crazy in this film it makes you wonder how he and the people behind this film were ever able to get it made.

The funniest scenes are when Loew is screaming at his therapist (Elizabeth Ashley) about how ridiculous it is to misfile something when everything is in alphabetical order and proceeding to recite the alphabet to his therapist. When his therapist tells him that she cannot possibly tell him who could have misplaced the file at his work, Loew responds with "Hah! And you call yourself a psychiatrist." Another laugh out loud scene is when Loew is in a store to buy glass vampire fangs, but realizes he cannot afford it, leading him to buy plastic "cheapie" ones. He puts the teeth in his mouth, with an over the top music cue added, and Loew runs around New York for a whole day with plastic vampire teeth in his mouth.

The film does have moments of uncomfortable humour if it can be called that. For one, Loew's berating of his

secretary gets very unsettling after a while, especially when it is suggested that he rapes her in the company storage room. Loew says he did this, but we cannot be sure, since it is not shown and it may be a falsification due to his increasing insanity, but either way, the act is the only moment that makes a viewer feel uncomfortable. His murder of a woman of whom he tries to suck the blood of is also a bit unnerving.

Had Nicolas Cage not become a notable movie star, it is possible that this film could have ended up just like Tommy Wiseau's *The Room*. An arthouse cinema classic in the cathedral of all-time bad movies. But since Cage has become the manic star that he is today, VK can be looked back as the film that gave Cage his acting voice. Cage has even drawn a parallel between this film and one of his most well know films *Face/Off* saying that VK was like his acting laboratory for his future big budget performances. VK is a confusing, bewildering watch, but it certainly isn't boring, much like Nicolas Cage himself.



# River Phoenix, a promise unfulfilled

› Young actor's death at twenty-three is a great loss of talent

Brandon Yip  
Senior Columnist

River Phoenix was a rising young star in Hollywood. He made several notable films, including the 1988 film *Running on Empty*—for which he received an Academy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor.

Tragically, on October 31, 1993, Phoenix died of an accidental drug overdose outside The Viper Room (then owned by actor Johnny Depp) on the Sunset Strip in West Hollywood. His death was mourned by fans, and film critics—revealing the loss of a great actor who had not realized his full potential. This is a look back at some of Phoenix's finest films.

## ***Stand by Me (1986)***

This was Phoenix's breakthrough role. He played the tough cigarette-smoking, foul-mouthed kid named Chris Chambers in this coming-of-age film. The story focuses on childhood friends who go on an adventure to find the dead body of a missing boy. The movie was based on the 1982 Stephen King novel, *The Body*. The movie was directed by Rob Reiner and co-starred Wil Wheaton, Corey Feldman, John Cusack, and Jerry O'Connell (in his first film).

Also, the film also starred Kiefer Sutherland—who is very convincing as a gang leader and bully. Richard Dreyfuss has a cameo as the film's narrator (playing Wil Wheaton's character as an adult). The film was a box-office hit in the summer of 1986, alongside a hit soundtrack. Phoenix was only 16 when the movie was released. His strong performance gave audiences a hint of the young star's acting potential.

## ***Running on Empty (1988)***

This is considered to be the movie that showcased Phoenix's natural talents as an actor in serious drama. Phoenix plays Danny Pope, the son of fugitive parents who are constantly on the run from the FBI. The family is always on high alert, ready to flee when they sense the FBI is on their tail. The movie was directed by Sidney Lumet. Phoenix has good chemistry with his on-screen parents played by Christine Lahti and Judd Hirsch.

In addition, several scenes show Phoenix's dramatic range, including one emotional scene where he is pouring his heart out to his on-screen girlfriend (Martha Plimpton). He discloses that he is not who he says he is due to his family always being on the run. Phoenix would be nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor. He would lose to Kevin Kline, who won the Oscar for the film *A Fish Called Wanda*.

## ***Dogfight (1991)***

This love story had little publicity when it was released in theatres in September 1991. Phoenix plays Eddie Birdlace, an 18-year-old Marine soldier who is about to be sent to fight in the Vietnam War. He meets a young woman named Rose Fenny (Lili Taylor). She is not unattractive, but rather, plain looking. Rose is skeptical about Eddie's intentions in wanting to get to know her better. However, she decides to go out with him, and a romance develops—as Eddie looks beyond Rose's plain exterior.



Illustration by Udeshi Seneviratne

He realizes that underneath, Rose is a unique and wonderful person. Phoenix and Taylor are cast perfectly together since their chemistry is very natural and not contrived. Notably, the film offers a good lesson: never judge a book by its cover!

## ***My Own Private Idaho (1991)***

Phoenix received numerous accolades and praises for his portrayal of a narcoleptic street hustler named Mike. The movie also stars Keanu Reeves (Scott), and he plays Mike's best friend. The film was directed by Gus Van Sant. Phoenix and Reeves do have a solid on-screen chemistry with each other. One scene that stands out shows Mike and Scott sitting during a bonfire. Mike feels lost as a person while searching for his mother, as he says: "If I had a normal family, and a good upbringing, then I would have been a well-adjusted person [...] Didn't have a dog or normal dad anyway, yeah. That's alright. I don't feel

sorry for myself. I mean, I feel like I'm, you know, well-adjusted."

Another notable scene shows Phoenix strutting confidently while grocery shopping. He pays for his groceries but declines any bags. His body language exudes so much confidence. Yet, when he carries his groceries with both hands, he drops them as he nears the exit door. Phoenix immersed himself in the role, as he had interviewed real street hustlers when researching the character. Many film critics have stated that this is the best performance he ever gave.

## ***The Thing Called Love (1993)***

This would be Phoenix's last film released before his death. The movie focuses on Miranda Presley (Samantha Mathis), an ambitious singer who moves to Nashville—determined to be discovered. The film was directed by Peter Bogdanovich and stars Sandra Bullock and Dermot Mulroney.

Phoenix plays James Wright, a talented singer trying to land his big break. Phoenix sings in the film, and he has a decent voice—he belts out the love ballad "Until Now," and the catchy hit, "Blame It On Your Heart."

The chemistry between Phoenix and Mathis (who was Phoenix's girlfriend when he died) is apparent. Phoenix displays a quiet brooding intensity. His character acts like a prick initially when he tries to woo and charm Miranda. He awkwardly hits on her in the opening few minutes of the film after the two characters first meet. He is later seen mocking her singing during an audition. However, later in the movie, Phoenix's character shows his charm and playfulness when he and Miranda begin dating. Unfortunately, the film's legacy has darker undertones due to Phoenix's death. Once again, it reveals what a significant loss this young actor's death was.



# An unfailing lead and zombies of the western frontier

› Season six premiere of 'Fear the Walking Dead' continues to battle zombies in the wild west

Jonathan Pabico  
Senior Columnist

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

The newly aired season six premiere of spin-off series *Fear the Walking Dead* has a typical narrative structure but compensates this shortcoming with a compelling lead and story. We reunite with Morgan (Lennie James)—the mighty Zen warrior of the zombie apocalypse—after he's betrayed and left for dead by new villain Virginia (Colby Minifie). He reluctantly decides to help new character Isaac, while being pursued by the cold-hearted bounty hunter Emile.

What makes *Fear* so unique from the other shows in the *Walking Dead* franchise is that it has the look and feel of a neo-western. The story presents a violent world of outlaws, drifters, and rogues that pays gleeful homage to Sergio Leone's old spaghetti westerns. The dry deserts and the growling zombies walking aimlessly blends with the old west's genre tropes to study how devolved the undead world has become.

Lead star Lennie James plays Morgan as a morose man in pain struggling to hold onto the remnants of his moral code. The use of harsh lighting, close-ups, and obstructed camera shots farther away from him convey his distraught state of mind as he drifts farther away from human connection. However, Morgan assisting Isaac evokes not only his good heart, but also stresses how important it is to be selfless by going the extra mile for

those that need it most.

During the deadly encounters Morgan has—with Emile, or zombies during action scenes—his goodness is brutally tested. These moments represent what James' character stands to lose and how much he's changed that violently transforms his identity with unpredictable results for the rest of the series. Aside from this, the viewers will enjoy seeing Morgan take on every zombie with his Zen master skills.

As for flaws, the premiere doesn't show what happened to Morgan immediately after the last episode and is explained only through his short expositional dialogue. This omitted time frame could have been shown to establish more tension for his lonesome journey.

The episode also has predictable narrative beats, despite tremendous cinematography, locations, and zombies. It's a multi-faceted arc that hardcore fans have seen from the entry's lead countless times before, so there won't be that many surprises for them.

Still, Morgan nonetheless remains a fascinating character because his adventure in the premiere is really a story about restoring faith and trust in both yourself and others. His interactions with Isaac explore how it's alright to be open with people, even though it can be hard. Morgan learning to trust Isaac and himself reflects the value of having faith as we struggle, stumble, and sometimes slip away through life. He is a complicated reminder of how there is always meaning in doing the right thing.



Illustration by Athena Little

# Relentless aliens, superb visuals, and weak characters

› Premiere of CBC's 'War of the Worlds' promises worthwhile spectacles despite shortcomings

Jonathan Pabico  
Senior Columnist

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

H.G. Wells' sci-fi classic *The War of the Worlds* was adapted as a 2005 film starring Tom Cruise, then eventually as Rafe Spall's three-episode miniseries on AMC. Now, CBC is featuring an eight-episode TV series of the titular book that so far presents a haunting picture of a helpless Europe besieged by a cold-hearted alien invasion.

As the episode progresses, the editing and cinematography elevate the story's remarkably chilling tone. The gorgeous wide takes of the natural mountain ranges and urban city are edited with smaller camera shots of characters living their everyday lives. These effects perfectly set up suspense to foreshadow the terrifying phenomena caused by the invaders.

In many ways, the premiere has a visual scale like Ridley Scott's *Prometheus* and a narrative akin to Roland Emmerich's *Independence Day*. This gives the show surprising emotional weight that gives viewers a substantial reason to tune in to the show, as well as a reason to look forward to what else CBC can bring in the future.

The cuts between camera shots gradually improves pacing, while locations become more claustrophobic to convey how frightened and confused families, scientists, and government officials are at the unknown. The gripping sound design leading up to the episode's climax reflects just how powerless we can feel towards

inexplicable events.

Unlike Wells' book, there isn't a series lead to follow due to the story focusing on several characters from many subplots. Some viewers may be disarmed if they're expecting a main protagonist to spearhead the premiere. However, this approach is more realistic since it immerses you in the

many different reactions to the attack.

Gabriel Byrne as a neuroscience professor is good enough for the premiere. His story arc is perhaps the only one to take seriously through his character's distant family relationships with his wife and son before the invasion. The show could have developed his backstory more, even though it's just the beginning of the show so far.

Because of the episode's flaws, and even though it's only the start of the series, Tom Cruise's adaptation is still superior. With the legendary Steven Spielberg behind the camera, the film presents a disturbing portrayal of aliens. It also foregrounds a riveting relationship between Cruise and Dakota Fanning's characters. Byrne and the rest of the cast are only passable in the show because they lack this same chemistry.

Overall, though, the season premiere of CBC's *War of the Worlds* sets up a truly scary depiction of humanity's threatening encounter with extraterrestrial life. With its editing, visual design, and storytelling, the show's first episode promises an enthralling series that honours H.G. Wells' famous novel. If zombies aren't your thing, then maybe an alien apocalypse will provide you those scares you crave for every October.



Illustration by Udeshi Seneviratne



# Chilling songs for the spooky season

› Bops, bangers, and sad ghost vibes for the whole graveyard



Photo by Arnaldo Fragozo

Sonam Kaloti  
Arts Editor

October's almost over already! Hopefully you've been able to enjoy the season's festivities with all the safety procedures limiting what we can do out and about. For when you're home and trying to get in the (spooky) mood, here's the start to a Halloween playlist!

## “Forever & Ever More” - Nothing But Thieves

For a rock band, this song's theme is pretty much mandatory. Vampires and... well there's only vampires. (Don't forget the humans!)

It's heavy and Halloween-y: the perfect combo (year-round!) if you're anything like me. Over-compressed electric guitar riffs, heavy kicks, and mysterious vocals come together to create this absolute beauty for ears.

## “When You Die” - MGMT

“Go fuck yourself / You heard me right / Don't call me nice again.” Well, aren't those the most fitting lyrics to represent the collective October mindset?

MGMT has one of the most unique sounds in alt-pop without getting too experimental (they retain a beat—amazing!) Fun saw-modulated synths run arpeggios in the back, a surprisingly calm acoustic guitar keeps melody, while the vocals do their... thing. This one's a bop to sing with friends while you're carving pumpkins.

## “Witching Hour” - Rezz

Firstly, anything by Rezz is a spooky song. “Witching Hour” gives “When You Die” a run for its money when it comes to saw-modulated synths. Truly, the combination of the delayed synth lead up front with the atmospheric glass synth sustained harmony in the back makes you feel like you're floating around *Goosebumps'* fictional “HorrorLand” amusement park.

## “Love Potion No. 9” - The Clovers

In for an oldie? “Love Potion No. 9” is a 1964 pure dance groove—it'll have you doing the twist in no time. I honestly believe it could be just as good for Valentine's Day, and you don't see that Halloween crossover often.

## “The Killing Kind” - Marianas Trench

“The ghost in me was true but / You were haunted too just / Didn't see it all along / I know my love can be / The killing kind.”

While Josh Ramsay's ghost never wants to leave wherever he is, I never want this song to end! It begins soft and chilling, with minimal instruments and a focus on the lead vocals, likely to accentuate the lyrical message before everything gets too wild.

About two minutes into the near seven-minute piece, the brass and kick drum come in, followed closely by the rest of the orchestra and, of course, the iconic Marianas Trench vocal harmonies.

## “Disturbia” - Rihanna

Throwback time! Don't even bother pretending this music video didn't scare you when you were younger.

This could be played anywhere—I personally recommend listening on your headphones when you're walking somewhere. The beat is perfect to add a confident strut to your walk.

## “Drunk on Halloween” - The Wallows

A far softer song than the rest on this list. This one's for the senti-spooky trick-or-treaters out there. To all the party goers who hide under a ghost sheet and stick to the corners, and to all the heart-broken ghouls.

## “A Cold Freezin' Night” - The Books

“I need to think of something, so you stay alive / As long as I want you to, because so I can kill you” “I can kill you with a rifle... / A shotgun, any way I want to / Probably by cutting your toes off and working my way up / Towards your brain”

An extremely experimental song with beeps and boops and especially unique vocals. The audio from the song consists of a brother and sister threatening each other with phrases that are extremely unnerving! The story behind this is that the musicians behind this masterpiece would collect old tape recorders from thrift stores to acquire audio for their music.

Now get to listening and have a super scary rest of the month. Oh, and don't look behind you, trust me.



# INTERVIEW WITH RETIRED HOMICIDE DETECTIVE BRIAN HONEYBOURN

› Vancouver's 'Babes in the Woods' murder case remains unsolved

Brandon Yip  
Senior Columnist

Stanley Park is one of the most beautiful parks in the city of Vancouver. The blend of ocean, forests, and scenic views of English Bay, Vancouver Harbour, and Burrard Inlet make for a picturesque and breathtaking experience. Many park goers enjoy picnics and family gatherings while others walk, run, and ride their bikes along the seawall.

But 67 years ago, Stanley Park would become known for a more horrific reason. It would be the site for one of Vancouver's most infamous unsolved murder cases: "Babes in the Woods." On January 14, 1953, the skeletal remains of two children (later identified as ages six and ten) would be discovered near Beaver Lake by a park employee named Albert Tong. He was walking in the area when he stepped on a patch of leaves that made an odd crunching sound. Later, he returned to the site and began to dig. He would soon discover two skeletons. Located near the remains were the following items: a lunch box, a decomposed fur coat, deteriorated pieces of children's clothing, a woman's penny loafer shoe (size 7 and a 1/2), two aviation caps, and a layman's hatchet. Later, that hatchet was found to be the murder weapon.

The gruesome murders of two children in Stanley Park made front page headlines in the local newspapers. Pictures of the clothing and other items from the crime scene were spread across North America. Missing persons cases were checked for any matches all through the continent. Plaster casts were created of the children's faces based on their skull shape. In the 1980s, the bones of the children would end up in an exhibit at the Vancouver Police Museum.

Yet seven decades after the discovery of the two children's remains, the case remains unsolved. It was determined that the children were murdered in 1947. The children were originally identified by a medical examiner as a boy and a girl. A theory was established that the boy and girl were murdered by their mother. Yet the identities of the mother, boy, and girl remain unknown. For decades, this was the assumption investigators would rely on.

In 1996, unsolved homicide unit detective Brian Honeybourn—of the Vancouver Police Department—took over the Babes in the Woods case. Honeybourn is very familiar with the case. "Well, I was the first detective sergeant in the unsolved provincial unsolved homicide unit from the Vancouver police," Honeybourn said in a phone interview with the *Other Press*. "I had the luxury of being able to pick and choose what cases I would look at because I would be assisting the detectives in my unit with their investigations, but I wasn't carrying a case load. Now, I was born in 1947, I grew up in New Westminster, and I remember every few years the media would resurrect [stories] about the 'Babes in the Woods.' I remember my parents talking about it. So, I thought I'd have a look at the case. There were several viable leads that didn't go anywhere, but that's why I got involved in it. There had been considerable amount of work done on the files by others prior to me looking at it," said Honeybourn.

In 1998, Honeybourn would make a remarkable discovery after taking the children's remains to Dr. David Sweet, a

prominent and now retired forensic dentist at UBC. After extracting DNA from the children's teeth, he revealed that the two children were both boys—not a boy and a girl. In addition, the boys were brothers that had the same mother, yet had different fathers. Honeybourn said the findings hurt the investigation. "[It was] very damaging, very damaging," Honeybourn said. "Because the focus was on a boy and girl, pretty well [at] the onset and they were misidentified



“

And [school records] are sealed for 100 years. Why anybody would seal records for 100 years is beyond me.

”





### Historical leads investigated

Brian Honeybourn spoke about the “Babes in the Woods” case as part of the Vancouver Police Museum’s Murder Mystery and Intrigue series. During his talk, he revealed many of the promising leads he had pursued over the past years:

- The woman in New Haven Hotel with two boys. She later disappeared.
- The woman from Mission with her two male children who also wore aviation helmets. They hitchhiked to Stanley Park.
- The woman living near the lighthouse at Prospect Point in Stanley Park. She lived with her two boys and father; she was rumoured to be a sex worker.
- A woman and a man that had a hatchet and were seen with two children at the park. It was said they went into the forest with the kids and then only the adults came out of the woods—and the woman had blood on her legs.

by a medical examiner. You got to remember there was no DNA back in that time. So, I can’t put a percentage on how damaging. But it would have had a very severe impact on the investigation,” he said.

Honeybourn began to go back and investigate old leads. Unfortunately, many of the leads he pursued would point to dead

woman in distress approaching them while letting out a “guttural” roar. She was wearing only one shoe, which stood out—considering that a single shoe was also discovered beside the bodies. “That’s why I think that the children were probably killed in May 1944,” Honeybourn said. “The couple went back to the island and they were interviewed by the RCMP over there—and that’s the report that we have in the file. I think that’s a very good lead and I think that’s probably when it happened,” he said.

In September 2018, Honeybourn approached staff sergeant Dale Weidman of the Vancouver Police Department to suggest that this lead needed further investigation. Another reason for the urgency in following up with the lead was the availability of websites like 23AndMe and Ancestry.ca. This could possibly reveal the identity of the two boys 67 years after the discovery of their remains.

Honeybourn contacted the Vancouver School Board to gain access to elementary school attendance records from the 1940s to find out if two boys had been absent from school. “And I attempted to follow that up after I retired,” Honeybourn said. “I wanted the school records [from] the elementary schools in Vancouver. I went to the school board, which I had dealt with when I was still working [...] and asked if I could have the school records. They phoned me back the next day (remember I’m retired now) [...] and said, ‘No, you’re retired.’ And [school records] are sealed for 100

years. Why anybody would seal records for 100 years is beyond me.”

Nevertheless, Honeybourn wanted to honour the memory of the two children by giving them a proper burial. He had their skeletal remains cremated, leaving vital parts of the bones for upcoming DNA testing. Honeybourn later scattered the children’s ashes into the water off Kits Point in the 1990s. He hopes one day that the two children will finally be identified. He detailed why in an interview with the *Globe and Mail*: “They get murdered in a major city, in a park, and we don’t know who they are? They’re two little guys that lost their lives way too early through no fault of their own. I think it’s incumbent upon us to try and figure out who they are.”

Unfortunately, seven decades has passed since the discovery of the two children’s remains in Stanley Park. The murderer likely has long been deceased. There will be no upcoming trial to bring justice for the two victims. Now it appears that advanced technology—mainly genealogical websites and databases—will be key in identifying the two boys.

Finally, Brian Honeybourn mentions to the *Other Press* that he remains hopeful that the boys will be identified. “Well, I’m an optimist by nature. I’m very optimistic with the way science has evolved that future investigators, those that are taking part in the investigation now, have a very good chance I think—in maybe identifying who the children are. And certainly, I wish them all the luck in the world. I really do,” he said. One way Honeybourn believes justice can be served is to find the names of the two boys in order to restore their identity and dignity.

ends.  
Notably, in 2014, Honeybourn disputed the claim that the boys were murdered in 1947. He found a specific shoe style the boys were wearing that was available in Vancouver before the end of WWII—making it probable that they were murdered prior to 1947.

One lead stood out for Honeybourn which supports his theory that the boys were killed before 1947. He remembered a testimony from a couple from Esquimalt who happened to be walking in Stanley Park in May 1944. The couple recalls a

“ I’m very optimistic with the way science has evolved that future investigators, those that are taking part in the investigation now, have a very good chance I think—in maybe identifying who the children are. ”



- Karma Teachers yoga studio
- New iPhone suddenly announced by Apple
- The real reason we work where we do ...and more

## DINGUSES AND DRAGONS: D&D-CENTRED POP CULTURE TO ADD TO YOUR ADVENTURING PARTY

› Podcasts and shows to consume while you're in-between sessions

Jacey Gibb  
Distribution Manager

*Welcome to Dinguses and Dragons, a weekly column aiming at demystifying and introducing the game of D&D to new and potential players*

If it was logistically, mentally, and physically possible, I would play D&D every day. But I still have to go to work, maintain relationships, and take care of my pets—so instead, I limit D&D to once a week.

But just because you're focused on other boring life stuff doesn't mean you can't get a daily D&D fix. There are so many amazing and hilarious projects that you can watch/listen to while you wade through real-life stuff. Here are a few personal recommendations:

### **Dimension 20**

Have I mentioned this lil' show called *Dimension 20*? Oh, I have? Really? On multiple occasions? Well, it must be a great show then. This actual-play game from CollegeHumor's Dropout platform was what sparked my interest in D&D back in 2018, and it deserves every bit of praise I throw at it. Currently, in its sixth season, the show alternates between a full-length season with the regular cast (Zac Oyama, Lou Wilson, Ally Beardsley, Brian Murphy, Emily Axford, Siobhan Thompson) and shorter side-quest seasons with different casts each time, while Dungeon Master (DM) Brennan Lee Mulligan remains the constant throughout. Each season is wildly different and wildly fantastic. The latest seasons are only available on the Dropout platform, but earlier seasons are on YouTube.

### **Not Another D&D Podcast (NADPOD)**

Almost as influential to my own playing style as *D20*, *NADPOD* is a hilarious, heart-warming story of three friends traversing the kingdom of Bahumia. Exceptionally DMed by Brian Murphy

(also of *D20*), the party is comprised of Axford, Caldwell Tanner, and Jake Hurwitz (of "Jake & Amir" fame). The show has also featured several *D20* cast members (Mulligan, Oyama, Thompson) who pop in for multi-episode arcs. (Mulligan's deceased

gunslinger character Deadeye Cybin is particularly memorable.) The first campaign of 100 episodes wrapped up earlier this year, but a new campaign is on the horizon.

### **Critical Role**

one of the most popular D&D podcasts, *Critical Role*, has been around since 2015 and has made Dungeon Master Matthew Mercer something of a D&D icon. (Side note: you can also catch Mercer in the second and sixth seasons of *Dimension 20*.) I find the larger cast a bit overwhelming at times, but in the capable and creative hands of Mercer, it's still a treat.

### **HarmonQuest**

A wonderful, unique show where comedians act out a roleplaying game and the footage is intercut with animations of said roleplaying. The main cast is Dan Harmon, Erin McGathy, Jeff B. Davis, and Spencer Crittenden—but the featured guests are always delightful (and have included Paul F. Tompkins, Aubrey Plaza, Kumail Nanjiani, Nathan Fillion, and Gillian Jacobs). The mashup of animation and real-life sounds jarring, but it plays to the comedic elements well.

### **The Adventure Zone**

Another long-running D&D podcast, this time from the McElroy brothers (and their dad) of *My Brother*, *My Brother and Me* fame. There's something innately wholesome about intergenerational D&D playing, but don't let that lead you into thinking this is family friendly. The McElroy love their absurdity so buckle up for plenty of inappropriate guffawing. My biggest gripe with *Adventure Zone* is it's a dude-heavy platform, whereas the more diverse shows/podcasts tape into deeper storytelling.





# Karma Teachers yoga studio

› The little studio that could

CJ Sommerfeld  
Staff Writer

Who else's back aches from the sedentary life COVID has forced upon us? Many of us are now working and schooling from home—a place that offers both a bed and a sofa as office and classroom alternatives. Posture etiquettes are extinguished when these places have become your new place of work and study and that may have just resulted in body pains. Never has there been a better time to scout out a spot to move your body and reverse all the harm Zoom has induced on our bodies. For this reason, I present to you Karma Teachers.

Karma Teachers is a non-profit that was founded in 2011 by a Emerson Lim (who is no longer associated with the company). He opened the space to create somewhere for people to meditate and practice yoga without the financial constraints that usually come with these sorts of places. The spot is located at 45 West Hastings in Vancouver, nestled within the main-DTES drag of debauchery. Up until 2016, it operated on the top floor of a hardwood floor and brick-clad heritage building. During this time, entrance was only accessible through the alley between Hastings and Cordova. In 2016, however, the studio moved downstairs, occupying both the first and second floors. In moving downstairs, the studio acquired a storefront and front door. These changes made the studio less of a clandestine yoga operation and more inviting to the public.

Present-day, the studio still abides by its original objective of extinguishing

finances as a barrier between someone and their capability to practice yoga. When the studio opened, a donation box sat at the front desk. Here, yogis could drop in whatever amount they were able to pay. This amount varied from nothing to a loonie, toonie, a fiver—or, if someone was feeling generous and had the means to do so—a twenty, or a fifty. As time progressed, however, the non-profit began offering online punch passes that were accessible to pre-purchase online. To curb the spread of COVID, the donation box has since been put in the closet and will probably remain there until this global pandemic passes.

Inclusion through the application of by-donation yoga is only the tip of the iceberg of what makes this space so great. Nearly the entire hierarchy of those who run the studio are volunteers. There is an exchange program where yogis exchange volunteer hours—both reception and cleaning the studio for free or reduced yoga and teacher training. Many people also volunteer at Karma Teachers simply to be a part of the space's community. This coterie is comprised of a multicultural hodgepodge of yogis and non-yogis. An individual does not need any previous yoga experience before entering the studio's doors to be welcomed in.

One thing that had stuck out to me when I began going to Karma Teachers in 2014 was something that different teachers would repeat. Each teacher would suggest that the students keep an eye on their mats—to even practice with their eyes closed if they felt so inclined. In doing this, we would not compare ourselves to others, nor would we feel like we were

being judged. This was something that made Karma Teachers stand out from some of the other, may I say, prototypically bougie yoga spots in Vancouver.

Karma Teachers was one of the first yoga spots to re-open in Vancouver after the city had shut down due to COVID. It is open, however, it is different compared to before. Yogis and non-yogis alike need to book their class before showing up at the studio, as now, only 11 people can attend a class! As well, bringing one's mat is a thing of the past! While mats and blocks have always been supplied at the studio, it is now mandatory to use these instead of one's own.

This studio has progressed [greatly] from where it started as a top floor meditation space and spot to practice yoga. While it still leads guided meditations, Yin, Hatha, and Vinyasa classes. Karma Teachers now offers 200- and 300-hour teacher training, Ayurveda and anatomy training, full moon women circles, booty workshops, and more.

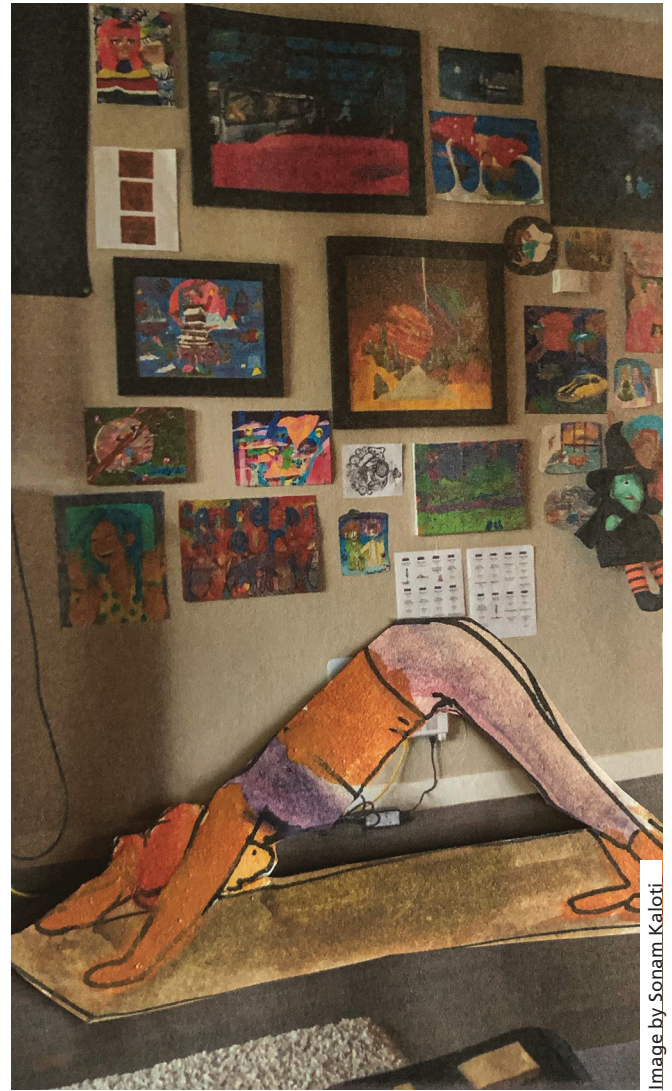


Image by Sonam Kaloti

Karma Teachers is the inclusive, modern-day yoga studio embodiment of the do-all Renaissance man. So, whether you have contorted your body into Astavakrasana, Utkata Konasana or Dwi Pada Sirsasana... or even can merely pronounce such poses, why not give it a try?

# iPhone 12: The best 5G phone?

› New iPhone suddenly announced by Apple



Photo by Billy Bui

Jerrison Oracion  
Senior Columnist

A few weeks ago, Apple made an announcement in which they presented the next versions of both the iPad Air and the Apple Watch. Many people thought that Apple would announce the next version of the iPhone at that point, but they did not. Apple probably decided not to reveal their latest phone because Samsung was due to announce a cellphone the week after—that phone was the FE version of the Samsung Galaxy S20 5G (it was also endorsed by BTS). After that, Apple dropped another pre-taped announcement unexpectedly on October 13. It had a similar running time of 1 hour and 10 minutes so they could have announced all their products in the announcement last month considering its usual running time of two hours.

First, Apple announced a mini version of the HomePod with the HomePod Mini. The HomePod Mini has most of the features that you can find in the Google Home Mini except

that the HomePod has high-quality speakers, can play audio from your iPhone by waving it on top of the speaker, can send messages to everyone through other speakers with an intercom, and you can sync the speaker with your car through CarPlay. Before they announced the next version of the iPhone, Tim Cook invited the CEO of Verizon, Hans Vestberg, to explain why 5G is game-changing technology. They announced that they are turning on their nationwide 5G network. After that happened, they finally got to next version of the iPhone with the iPhone 12, which unlike other 5G cellphones, was collaborated on including companies like Bell to optimize the cellphone's design for 5G.

They also announced a mini version with the iPhone 12 mini. This announcement's tone made me think that they were going to announce a James Bond phone to promote No Time to Die. The iPhone 12 mini has the same features as the regular version. The iPhone 12 is faster, thinner, and lighter than the iPhone 11 but also has a new type of screen protection called Ceramic Shield, which is similar to Samsung's Gorilla Glass. It can now be recharged with the

USB-C cable through a computer or laptop and includes a new recharging technology called MagSafe in the form of various accessories including pouches and cases that you attach to a magnet recharge port.

A major difference between the iPhone 12 and other 5G cellphones is that it supports most of the 5G bands that are available. They also announced the next pro version with the iPhone 12 Pro, which has improved camera systems including a telephoto lens that seems sharper than others. The video camera is not only the first video camera in a cellphone to record in 4K and Dolby Vision, but it is also the first video camera in a cellphone that can be used to edit in Dolby Vision. Even Academy Award-winning cinematographer Emmanuel Lubezki endorses it which means that you can make Terrence Malik films with it!

Photos can be now processed as a new type of file format called Apple ProRAW which offers high-quality DSLR images with the technologies of Apple. With these innovations, the iPhone 12 is probably the best 5G cellphone and it's worth the wait.



# Perks of working in a four-star resort

› The real reason we work where we do

Morgan Hannah  
Life & Style Editor

Each job has its own unique perks beyond the paycheck which, arguably, isn't so much a perk as it is the bottom-line reason why anyone ever works anywhere. These perks vary from job to job and may be as simple as food discounts or working with your friends, or as complex as private helicopter usage and generous write offs—they certainly give each job its juice.

I work at a four-star resort on a British Columbian gulf island with its own restaurant and spa. My position is the front desk at the inn—answering phones and emails, checking guests in and out, and answering a wide assortment of questions.

Basically, I am a human switchboard. It's quite remote and rather sleepy during the winter months, but otherwise it's the beautiful hopping heart of the island. The team I work with is an unusual, hardworking, and passionate bunch of people, or as I like to refer to them, "all the nicest people from the island having congregated in the same place."

When asking some of my coworkers what perks they feel they receive from working at the resort, the head chef responded, "Well, I get to eat for free. That's a perk, I guess." One of the lunchtime servers mentioned that for him working with the staff is his perk, and the spa associates are known to swap free massages at their leisure.

Employees, especially the housekeepers, are the first to know about any unused goods. Old furniture or leftover breakfasts are common finds and staff get to take their finds home at the end of the day. And if you consider staff housing to be another perk, then add it to the list! Not all the staff live on property (me for instance), but those who do get a wicked deal on rent.

For myself, the perks are a rather long list. My partner and I own a small sports car which, one can imagine, doesn't have a whole lot of storage and isn't that great for hauling heavy loads. But on that list of perks is free usage of the company vehicles, so long as we make it official and fill out the paperwork. At the resort, I am also responsible for car rentals to our guests and visitors to the island. We have reasonable rates, however nothing beats the "employee perk" rate. Other amazing perks of the job are the excellent discounts on spa services, retail, food, and accommodations. Additionally, because my partner works in maintenance, we have free access to power tools and scraps of wood for creative home projects.

As far as hotels, inns, and resorts go, the perks may vary from business to business. Yet for mine, they seem almost endless—and for that I am grateful. It certainly makes for a bunch of happy employees to be treated to so many wonderful benefits beyond a paycheck.



Photo by Morgan Hannah



Photo by Billy Bui

## ADVERTISEMENT

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- Handling essential tasks throughout the year
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# The Universal Spirit

› Timeless serenity in a small book

Matthew Fraser  
Opinions Editor

Culture creates aides for the spirit, but too often those aids are contained within the culture and only serve the dominant group of the culture. Stories of wisdom and guidance are often trapped within the confines of religion and barred from secular sharing. One book that transcended the trap of secular animosity to religious teachings is *The Prophet* written by the late Lebanese poet, Khalil Gibran. Published in 1923, *The Prophet* garnered immediate acclaim and has never since sunken from wider cultural esteem. But in the early '60s, new-age spiritualists and gurus brought Gibran's work to the fore. The book begins with Al Mustafa waiting for a ship to come and return him to his people after 12 years on Orphalese. Al Mustafa spies from a hill a familiar mast on the horizon. From there, written with poetic elegance, *The Prophet* tells of the last hours that Al Mustafa spends with the people of Orphalese.

*The Prophet* is a book for solitude and uncertainty; in the strange and disconnected world of a pandemic, it is a soothing reassurance that transcends



Illustration by CJ Sommerfeld



Photo by Matthew Fraser

“***The Prophet* is a book for solitude and uncertainty; in the strange and disconnected world of a pandemic, it is a soothing reassurance that transcends the confines of a single culture or faith.**

the confines of a single culture or faith. Blending the esoteric mists of eastern religion with the simplified air of a western tale, *The Prophet* manages to convey both quiet reassurance and the beauty of the mystic's inner world. The villagers of the island gather around Al Mustafa to ask for his final guidance and final teachings before this journey home. This is a book that bares its heart through phrases both simple and enigmatic. When asked about time, Al Mustafa replies: “Of time you would make a stream upon whose bank you would sit and watch its flowing. Yet the timeless in you is aware of life's timelessness, and knows that yesterday is but today's memory and tomorrow is today's dream.”

While *The Prophet* never strays from the spiritual airs of a religious text, its novella format allows it to exist as an otherworldly addition to any reader's catalogue; it is living as fiction that travels with the reader through dreams and heartache alike. I recommend *The Prophet* so frequently that I have two copies, one for myself, printed in 1963—smelling of old age and long-forgotten book piles—and another printed in 2001 to lend to curious friends and as an aid in tumultuous times. *The Prophet* outlives Gibran not just for its

simple elegance and timeless guidance but also for its non-denominational take on faith. Though the Bible may have Jesus and the Quran has immortalized Muhammed, Al Mustafa is unbound by land origins or a belief system. Al Mustafa's world is only that of Orphalese and his words are but a support for the individual as they traverse the world around them. Hostile or docile, painful or joyous, *The Prophet* takes the reader in hand on a solitary walk through the inner workings of a universal truth that never juxtaposes against faith but always reaffirms the eternal humanity of spiritual guidance. Leading not with the ironclad rule of organized religious fervour but with an introspective calm and clarity, *The Prophet* is best taken as an inspired spiritual aid; everlasting, singular, and without pretence, Gibran's work is both made for poetic enjoyment and independent reflection. Its enigmatic guide is faceless yet sure, the wisdom encased between the books covers reinforces all without care for creed or origin.

Available for free online via the website of the same title, the simple, poetic and cleansing tome is the perfect salve for the dreary and unhappy days of pandemic isolation.



- The real concern with mail-in fraud
  - Unconditional love is a toxic cultural concept
  - BC 2020 provincial election debate analysis
- ...and more

## Halloween going down in history as a viral one

› This sweet holiday doesn't have to be shut down



Photo by Morgan Hannah

Morgan Hannah  
Life & Style Editor

This year Halloween is going to be dramatic one way or another. As an already highly anticipated and highly social event, 2020's Halloween happens to fall on a Saturday night, a full moon, and the last day of daylight savings... making it even more tempting to stay up late celebrating in all kinds of wonderfully wicked ways.

The typical Canadian spends anywhere from \$100 to \$200 on Halloween and according to a half-decade-long poll by Statutory Holidays Canada, Halloween is the third most loved holiday out of 22 statutory holidays (even though Halloween is an unofficial holiday).

Unfortunately, if the typical trick-or-treating and big bougie parties occurs as per usual, people are afraid we could be looking at widespread virus transmission all across Canada, and possibly even the world. According to CTV News, it is still possible to hang onto old traditions, such as trick-o-treating, it'll just have to look different this year. James Dark of Courtice, Ontario wrote an email to CTV News stating that "[he] fully believes the chances of [anyone] contracting COVID through collecting candy is very slim. We [...] just need to be smart about it." Some offered solutions are proper masks regardless of whether they go with your costume or not, using hand sanitizer regularly throughout the night, and candy-providers taking

up spots outside on their front porches or steps to prevent doorbell ringing and gatherings. Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Theresa Tam agrees that Halloween need not be canceled. In offering solutions, she stated in a briefing to Ottawa: "There's some really interesting ideas where people are handing out treats at the end of a hockey stick or something, using a pool noodle to tell your kids how far they should be standing apart from each other. So, there are ways to actually manage this outdoors."

But what about the older crowds? Those who prefer to cluster in bars and parties? Well, those previously mentioned rules apply—masks and hand sanitizer—as well as accepting that this year is

bound to look a bit different than the last year and many years before. I believe alternative arrangements will have to be made to ensure that provincial COVID-19 regulations are met. Bubble parties with friends, family, and co-workers (people you see every day) can still be arranged at one another's homes or at outside venues—the forests and national parks of BC are an excellent and super spooky option for getting lost with a small group of friends or family! One could also do a walking tour or one of the many other scary or aesthetic outdoor events.

It seems that Halloween doesn't need to be cancelled this year, it'll just look a bit different and people will need to be a bit more careful than expected.



# Return to sender

› The real concern with mail-in fraud

Timothy Easling  
Contributor

Mail-in voting is not the sort of controversial issue a democratic society wants to be reading about in the newspaper. When the integrity of elections is brought into question it seems all too reminiscent of the phony elections of the USSR and its puppet states—the strong socialist push from the left in recent years providing an all-too-helpful parallel. Forget Biden and Harris dodging questions of “packing the court”—*this* is the primary concern for 2020. If voting is compromised in any way, the actions taken post-election are irrelevant.

While most are focused on fraud, not enough pause has been taken simply for the “why?” of mail-in ballots. Yes, we’re currently in the middle of a declared pandemic, but that pandemic has not caused the cessation of all activities. Folks aren’t restricted to their homes or limited to hazmat suits in their wardrobe selection. Citizens are seeing friends and family, getting exercise, and going shopping. As long as social distancing is maintained and a mask is worn, many appear to have no problem with densely populated areas and events. What’s the concern with voting in-person?

Insider estimated grocery stores in the USA to average approximately 30 million customers a day in 2018—and each shopping trip to be around 41 minutes. Essentially, spread across the USA’s estimated 40,000 grocery stores, the entire country takes a trip almost every week-and-a-half. In a grocery store we all handle the same fruit and veggies that the previous customer just pawed over—and that are generally unwashed in the first place. We all congregate in the same buildings that often only have one or two entrances. We all interact with the same employees who are doing their best to follow regulations. Now, the point here isn’t to create a paranoia about shopping but precisely the opposite. Cases are generally being traced back to private parties or events—not essentials like grocery trips. No one is screaming about the immense dangers created by hopping in a car and heading to Safeway with a hundred other folks—so why is voting in-person drawing such attention?

Outlets such as CNN are reporting that it is expected to be a “record-shattering turnout,” but again, the question no one is asking is “why?” Why is 2020 set to be the year that everyone makes sure they’re checking their ballot? Was 2008, the first year a black man became president of the United States not a key date? Was 2012, when that same man ran again, not a major election? And if neither of those were important enough, surely 2016 when Donald Trump first ran, would at least nudge the needle, right? In chronological order beginning with 2008, the voter turnout of the total voting population has been 58.23 percent, 54.87 percent, and 55.67 percent. Just to prove that Obama didn’t change voting attitudes, the 2004



Illustration by CJ Sommerfeld

“

**If there is a substantial increase in voters, before running off to celebrate the end of political apathy in the USA, ask yourself what is truly different about this election cycle.**

George Bush election saw 56.70 percent of voters hit the polls.

As the numbers show, despite the continued polarization of American politics, voting attitudes have generally remained the same. The “racists” didn’t suddenly show up and vote Trump in or we would have seen a jump in those figures (actually a 2.56 percent *decrease* from 2008 to 2016). Playing devil’s advocate and saying that the “racists” were the reason for Trump’s election would mean that those same people who were keen to vote in Obama based on his skin colour suddenly decided that Trump wasn’t so bad... and then didn’t even vote. It’s not a strong argument.

All the facts taken into consideration, the narrative being pushed by most mainstream media outlets that *this* election will be the one to shatter voter turnout is suspicious—and I think is the greatest indicator that something more sinister is afoot. Lines such as this one from CNN help to mislead: “Voters in five key states have already requested more ballots than pre-Election Day votes were cast in all of 2016.” The issue with such reporting is that it tries to draw a false parallel between two completely different elections. There was no COVID-19 in 2016. There was no need to vote early to avoid massive lines or risk of infection. *Of course*, there are more mail-in requests now. However, the picture many outlets are trying to paint is that *more* Americans are voting—not more Americans are voting *safely*. The final voting figures are what’s important; if an

additional 30 million previously apathetic American voters show up for this election, regardless of mail-in-figure percentage, eyebrows should be arched.

It’s a similar argument as to why voter fraud has not been rampant in federal elections before. Mail-in voting has never existed at this level in the past—there is no parallel to draw. However, this is not to say there aren’t examples. Tales of voter fraud stemming from mail-in ballots have received little mainstream coverage but are on the rise. Paterson, New Jersey’s third-largest city, was rocked by a municipal election scandal that resulted in four men running for office being charged with varying levels of fraud. Paterson Mayor Andre Sayegh, a Democrat, was painfully aware of the implications of the situation—his words suggesting in an interview that he didn’t want the story to get broad coverage: “We don’t want Donald Trump to tweet about us.”

Texas saw a mayoral candidate attempt to secure 84 additional ballots *by himself*. His sloppy execution fortunately resulted in his arrest, but authorities are not always so vigilant, nor are criminals always so obvious. Another case from Texas has unearthed a scheme from a 2018 primary in which many Americans were completely unaware they were being used.

Ohio reported a massive error that saw 50,000 invalid ballots go out. The mistake was ultimately caught but shows the massive scale on which something can go wrong with mail-in ballots. What if the issue hadn’t been spotted? Fifty-thousand

Americans (their voting preferences are unknown) could have quietly slipped under the rug.

These are just a few of the recent highlights, but if using a search engine other than Google, there are many more instances of mail-in fraud to be found. The claim that mail-in fraud is not a major issue and has no supporting evidence is a blatant lie. And while many outlets such as the *Washington Post* write lines such as “officials identified just 372 possible cases of double voting or voting on behalf of deceased people out of about 14.6 million votes cast by mail in the 2016 and 2018 general elections, or 0.0025 percent,” in an attempt to quell suspicions, such “facts” only raise more questions such as how did they arrive at this figure?—and if there was successful fraud, how would they know?

Regardless of mail-in, advance, or day-of ballots, the figure to watch is the total number of voters. If there is a substantial increase in voters, before running off to celebrate the end of political apathy in the USA, ask yourself what is truly different about this election cycle. What has 2020 brought that recent decades of elections haven’t? The USA has been rocked by war and disease before—this is nothing new. And if there is no good answer, then perhaps it’s the one many have been trying to deny all along.



# Unconditional love is a toxic cultural concept

› Healthy relationships have conditions and boundaries

Janis McMath  
Editor-in-Chief

Societies around the globe have always romanticized the concept of unconditional love. Pop songs glorify it, relationship gurus emphasize the importance of it in a relationship, and everyone has something negative to say about unconditional love's opposite: conditional love. While well meaning, this concept regarding love is severely flawed and, in a few words, dead wrong.

A common definition of unconditional love is a love offered "without expectation or repayment." Unconditional love is to be there for someone at their worst and still love them wholly. Part of this is a positive and lovely idea, but if we follow the logic to the end, we can see the negative underbelly: accepting someone's abuse because you love them "regardless of their flaws."

It's not hard to find a bunch of examples of abusive partners romanticized in media; Edward in *Twilight* basically controlled Bella and watched her while she slept pre-relationship when he was crushing on her, Ross and Rachel's relationship in *Friends* is all about manipulation, lying, and dramatic arguments, and Khal Drogo forces himself (only in the show) on Daenerys in the beginning of *Game of Thrones*, yet people are still constantly tweeting "you're my sun and stars." A lot of these examples are explained as unconditional love, and it feels like they are only given that title because people are aware of how many absurd obstacles have been faced in these relationships. Unconditional love is given as an honorary title often as a celebration of the unbelievable (and sometimes extremely

negative) hardships faced and conquered. This concept is what causes people to romanticize the idea of love overcoming all obstacles—and while that is beautiful, there are some obstacles love should never overcome.

Manipulation, cheating, and lying are great examples. These are examples of emotional abuse which individuals should not tolerate in any relationship, but culture romanticizes them and so do the young adults that consume that media. A selfless love is a toxic love to the giver; personal emotional needs should be fulfilled in a relationship—it only makes the relationship better for both people if both are satisfied. Everyone has expectations for their partners, as they should, so pretending that love is "without expectation" can deprive partners of being honest with what they need. Using "don't you love me unconditionally" is also an easy way for an abuser to pressure their victims into doing things they feel uncomfortable with.

Even a dog loves conditionally. Dogs that face physical abuse often become aggressive or completely terrified and

unsocial; dogs that receive proper care, love, food, and physical exercise are often happy and love their owners. Dogs are seen as unconditional bundles of love, but dogs have very strict (and simple) rules that need to be obeyed in earning their love.

All of this is not to say that conditional love doesn't have abhorrent examples: only loving your children if they obey your will, loving a partner simply for their possessions or looks, rejecting a family member because of sexuality or religion—the list is endless.

Clearly there are conditional loves that are predicated on terrible and unfair conditions. But a conditional love with fair boundaries that protects the giver is what all good relationships are built upon. A good partner will have similar conditions for the relationship and naturally follow your conditions since your values align. Always look to protect yourself and your well-being; don't commit to anyone who doesn't respect your reasonable needs and boundaries.

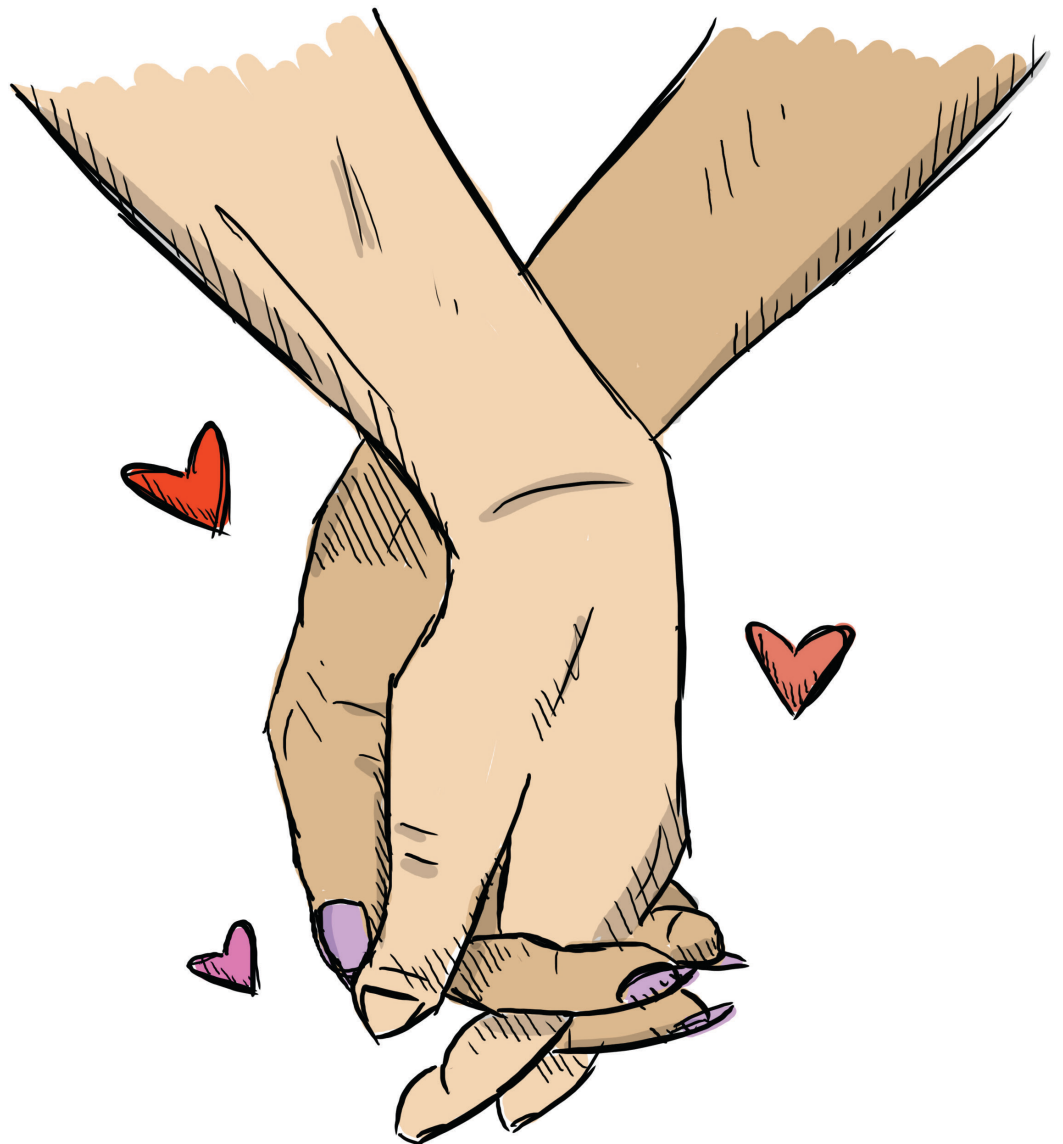


Illustration by Athena Little

## BC 2020 provincial election debate analysis

› It is more exciting than you think

Jerrison Oracion  
Senior Columnist

The BC provincial election this year is probably not the most exciting with the coronavirus pandemic still happening. Many campaign rallies had to be presented as town halls on the internet, there were not a lot of TV ads from the major parties about the election, and you may not know who is running in your riding because you were not able to engage with them because of social distancing measures. But the one thing in this election that was almost the same as previous years was the leaders' debate, and this event has the power to get everyone talking

The debates inform viewers about the leaders of the major parties, what leaders

will do if chosen, and ultimately help you decide who to vote for. The debate happened in the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts at the University of British Columbia with safety precautions in place and was moderated by Shachi Kurl. All the leaders of the major parties were in the debate including Premier John Horgan of the BC NDP, Andrew Wilkinson of the BC Liberal Party, and Sonia Furstenuau of the BC Green Party.

The themes that were discussed in the debate included pandemic recovery, housing, the environment, and social issues. In the beginning of the debate, all but Wilkinson acknowledged that they were on the unceded territory of the Musqueam nation. During the section on pandemic recovery, Furstenuau grilled Horgan on calling an election during the

pandemic and breaking the agreement that they had on fixed election dates. Horgan said that he was not thinking of calling one until the pandemic happened and he still declares that the reason why he called the election was because he wanted to have a stable government handling the pandemic.

Throughout the debate, Wilkinson did not wow me though he is a doctor, and he emphasized on the idea of reducing the PST to three percent and funding programs through loans a lot. While reducing the PST could reduce the cost of everyday items, it can lead to budget cuts and fewer services. Wilkinson grilled Horgan for not building more hospitals to meet the needs of the province but they announced that they were going to build more hospitals—though they have not been built yet.

Horgan did a great job in the debate

because his answers were straightforward, and he was enthusiastic. Although, he said a controversial answer when the leaders were asked about their white privilege being a political leader. Horgan responded with, "For me, I did not see colour. I felt that everyone around me was the same." Many say he chose the wrong choice of words to describe that he had a lot of friends from various cultures and he apologized after the debate.

Furstenuau was also great in the debate grilling the other leaders on various issues. The leaders also tackled BC's Green Plan, tent cities, and protests on pipeline projects. The BC provincial election leaders' debate this year was very informative and was helpful in learning from the major parties about how the province is going to get through the pandemic.



# HUMOUR

- Apparently Zoom teaches more than academia
- What's this week looking like for you?  
...and that's everything!

## What the Zoom?!?

› Apparently Zoom teaches more than academia

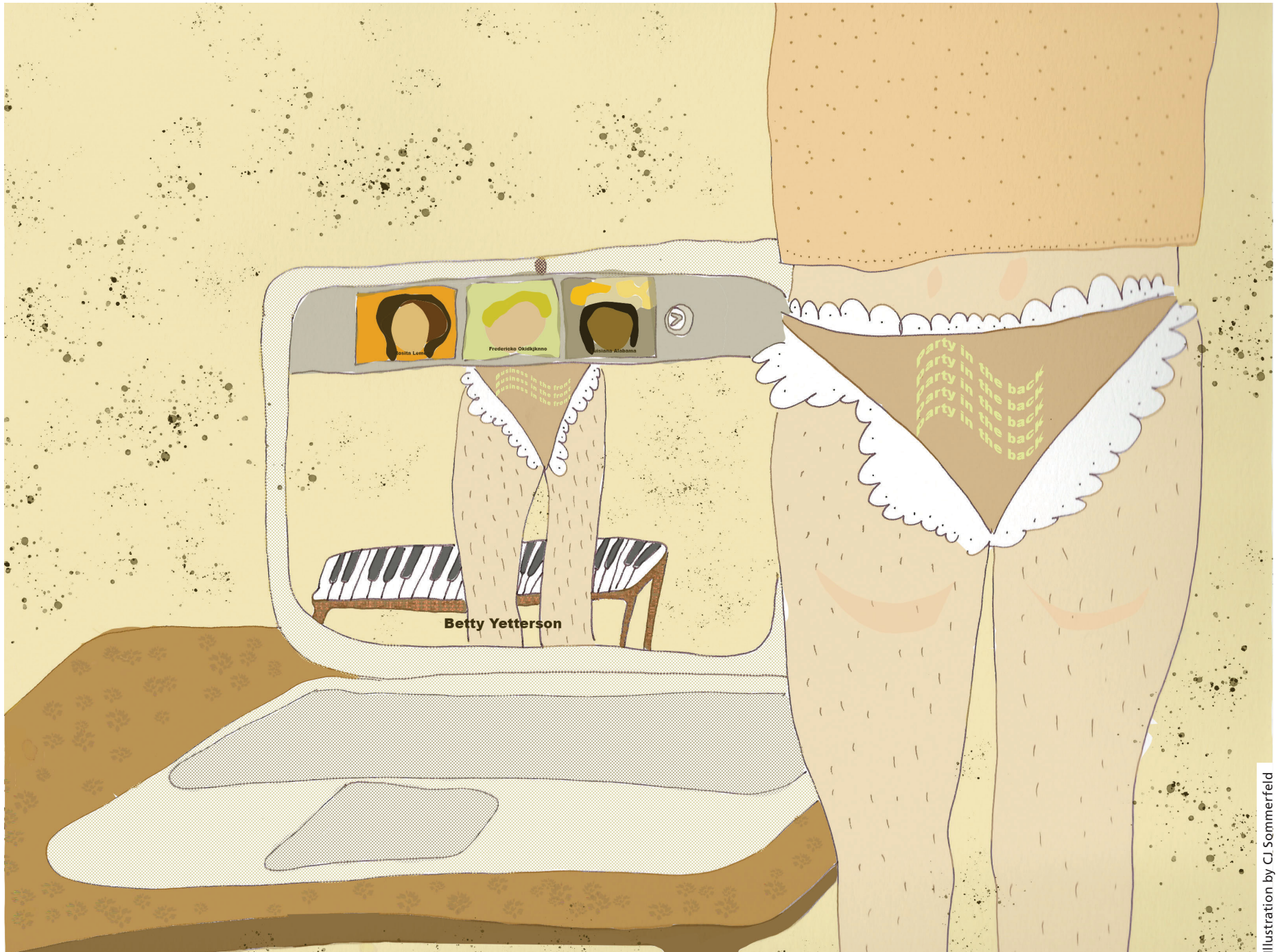


Illustration by CJ Sommerfeld

CJ Sommerfeld  
Staff Writer

**B**ATABATABATA! The sound of a helicopter pierced Betty Yetterson's dream. In her half-dazed state, she remained cocooned in her covers, relishing in the ultimate fantasy of a dream which she had just been woken from. An alternate reality where students sat in class, on campus, not social distanced, and—gasp, maskless!

"FRICK!" Yetterson screamed, remembering that on Tuesday mornings she had MUSC 1106, a piano class—on Zoom... of course. After a quick trip to the toilet, she dragged her keyboard from its usual dark corner across her apartment to a better lit area. En route to the better lit area, she stepped on the peddle, stumbling, but thankfully catching her fall. She opened up her laptop atop the table that she placed next to her keyboard's new location so that her teacher could see her key-fingering.

Once her chair, instrument, and laptop were positioned in harmony, she clicked on the class' Zoom link.

Please wait until the host lets you in the grey box read. "They're probably in breakout rooms... fuuuuuck, I'll never be let in." She told herself, eyeing yesterday's leftover coffee sitting on the kitchen counter. She waited a couple more seconds before excusing herself from her seat to grab the cold cup of joe. Suddenly, she heard her teacher's voice blaring from her laptop's internal speakers: "Betty, you're late! And I'm talking to a chair." Yetterson looked across the at her cracked pleather chair, impersonating her presence. She grabbed the cold cup, anxiously skipping back to her seat.

Only when she saw the reflection of her unshaved legs in the tiny Zoom box that read Betty Yetterson did she realize that in her fury to get to class, she had forgotten to put pants on! Yetterson sat quickly, hoping to mask her hairier than usual legs out of the frame. In doing so, her quick motions jolted drips of

cold coffee onto her shirt. "Frick, what a slob!" She thought to herself, hoping that her Zoom square was not one the default squares that was [showing] to her classmates.

"Before I put ya'll in 'breakout rooms', let's grab some manuscript paper and notate Bethoven's "Shepard's Song," Yetterson's manuscript paper was in her bedroom, which was across her apartment. Looking down at her skivvies, she reminded herself no can do. She peered at each of her classmates little Zoom squares. Each displayed an image synonymous to one another: a keyboard or piano, accompanied by the top of a head, their eyes down notating the song which the teacher had asked them to. Yetterson blankly stared at her keyboard waiting for the others to complete their task. She exposed the top of her head to her camera, imitating her classmates, pretending that she too was completing the task.

She then noticed a button that read metronome on her keyboard. Despite being in a music program, her rhythm was

comparable to Steve Martins' in The Jerk and had been searching for a good metronome app to no avail. Without thinking, she tapped on the metronome button. UH OH! Instead of some subtle noise to assist in keeping rhythm, an EDM-like melody nearly ruptured the keyboard's speakers. In a fury, Yetterson began pushing different buttons on her instrument to mute its dissonance, eventually turning the keyboard off in its entirety. As she looked up, her Zoom screen read "The host has muted all participants, click alt+shift to unmute yourself." The small Zoom boxes which once exhibited the tops of her classmate's heads now displayed wondering faces, some were smirking, others collapsed in laughter behind their muted screens.

Yetterson never did figure out how to use the metronome knob on her keyboard. She did, however, remember that putting on pants was as important a step in the morning as coming to class!



# Horoscopes for the week of October 19

› What's this week looking like for you?

Sonam Kaloti  
Arts Editor



## ARIES

The new moon on October 16 has opened you up to a great business (or romantic) partnership! Finances and new opportunities are looking good, but beware! The full moon on October 1 and Mercury being in retrograde from October 13 may be steering you in an angry direction. Maybe learn how to chill for once: just cause you're the baby of the zodiac doesn't mean you get leeway to be an angry little monster.

## TAURUS

Cuffing season was meant just for you, baby! Mercury retrograde is in your 7th House of Partnership beginning October 13. This means if you're single you may fall head over heels for someone new, but if you're in a relationship, you might just get reminded why you're together.

The anxiety from the full moon on October 1 may still be holding you back. Surrender to the waves! Stop being such a stubborn bull and become more like a sardine, drifting in the vast flow of the ocean.



## GEMINI

Not so two-faced this month, are you, Gemini? This month you're all about family, home matters, and finances. You might get approved for a loan or the real estate you've been trying to acquire. Gee, how exciting you are! The new moon on October 16 falls into your 5th House of Romance—swoon! Might want to have a chat with your partner about having that baby.

## CANCER

Venus is in your 3rd House of Communication this week, so you've truly got love on the brain. You've got the liquid luck potion in your heart, so all your romantic endeavors will be successful. Too bad your shitty work life is screaming in your head, interrupting that smooth jazz. Get a grip and get your girl, silly crab.



## LEO

You started this month feeling completely hopeless in getting an education. It's okay, we can't all be geniuses. Besides getting that coin, this month kind of sucks for you. Don't blame me, blame the stars. Luckily, the Full Moon on October 31 is in your sign, so you'll be back to you old, loud, obnoxious self in no time!

## VIRGO

You are a God this week. You're all about confidence and positive vibes, everyone's vying for your affection, money's coming your way... it's seriously the best. Nothing bad to say here. You should probably think about carrying around an evil eye, though.



## LIBRA

So, your dead relationship ended in the last couple weeks. Nice, it wasn't worth saving, pal. The New Moon on October 16 fell in your sign, and you're feeling the affects. Try not to use people as rebounds too hard, heartbreaker, or you may be the one getting body parts broken.



## SCORPIO

Mercury in Retrograde is really messing you up—in a good way. You're finally learning how to not be a controlling prick! Open your mind, revise your mindset, and be better! It may be hard right now, but everyone else is doing it... so...



## SAGITTARIUS

Your love life is a hot mess, but isn't it always? Anyway, it's not like you care! You're free as a bird, and people are just other birds, all flying somewhere.... Who needs a flock?

You know what does fly with you forever? Money, baby! And your finances and career are on FIRE this week. Ask for a raise because you'll get it. Get ready to marry that upcoming promotion!



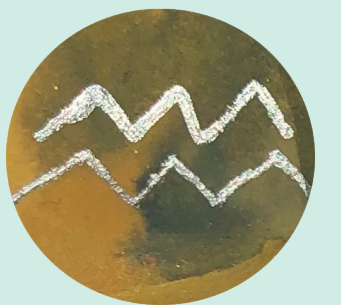
## CAPRICORN

You are a domestic disaster. You're an angry, sensitive, big baby. Grow up. Once you've done that, begin putting your career goals in motion. This is the perfect week for professional matters.



## AQUARIUS

Yes, you got chosen to be on the money train, too, Aquarius. That's good because your Ruler of Love, Mercury, is in retrograde. You feel unsupported, so you've chunked that relationship to the backseat. It's okay, just absorb love from the world instead, you humanitarian angel.



## PISCES

You're dreamily thinking about a special someone, and hopelessly falling... behind in school. This special someone is helping you realize your dreams and they seem like they've magically fallen from the heavens, created just for you! Too bad you won't fulfill those dreams if you keep barely getting D's. Wake up!





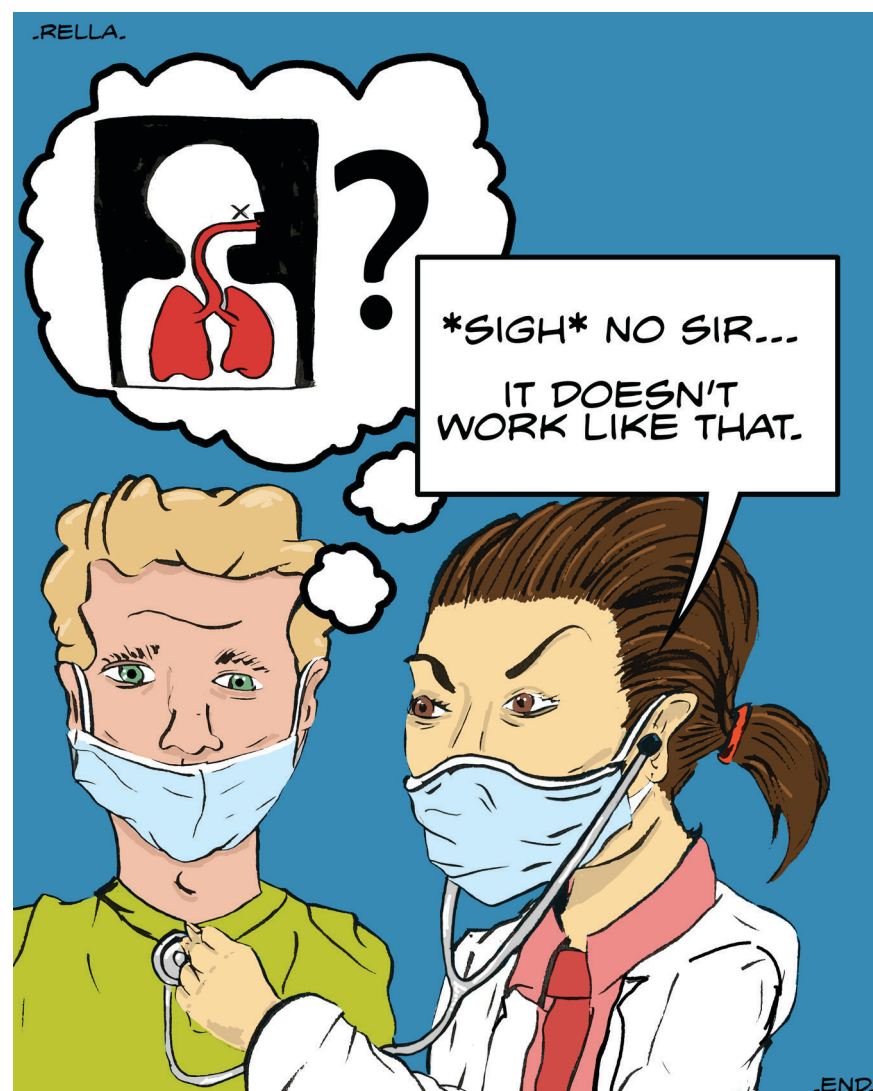
# COMICS

## A popular PDA comic



Comic by Janis McMath

## Doesn't work that way



Comic by Nova Sawatsky



# CREATIVE WORKS

## Hematite



Illustration by Sonam Kaloti

Sonam Kaloti  
Arts Editor

Forgot Hematite was in my pocket  
giving me clarity. Blessed the pretty  
iridescent Opalite chain locket  
strung on my neck. The lights of this city

remind me of home: beyond the vast space  
you can see with naked eye. Galaxies  
too high for Hubble. Floating there with grace,  
radiating light: the Starseed families.



# CROSSWORD

Weekly Crossword:  
Sounds like...

Caroline Ho  
Contributor

ACROSS

- 1. In this place... or with 1-down, a hint to the shaded squares
- 5. Prefix with “prime” or “par”
- 8. Grub
- 12. Abbr. in citations
- 13. Assessment, for short
- 15. What a cheetah can’t do
- 16. Quads
- 17. Addiction treatment facility
- 19. Church recess
- 20. Regret
- 21. Wind indicator (blood vessel)
- 23. Atomic no. 10
- 25. A large amount
- 26. Byproduct of fission (torso part)
- 31. Singer-songwriter Guthrie
- 32. Last name in furniture design
- 33. Catch
- 36. Fallback option
- 38. Provincial pol.
- 39. O<sub>3</sub>
- 41. Opposite NNE
- 42. At an angle
- 44. Sea eagle (var. sp.)
- 45. Meteor (sloped passageway)
- 48. Russian aristocrat
- 50. Vow
- 51. Doomed endeavour (harmonize)
- 55. Collection
- 58. Icy precipitation
- 59. State of matter
- 60. Flour used for naan
- 61. “\_\_ upon a time...”
- 62. Attempt, as a shot
- 63. Father of Communism
- 64. Saw
- 65. Pod vegetable
- 66. Eins + zwei

DOWN

- 1. Listen
- 2. Caesar’s question
- 3. A Hogwarts house
- 4. Golfer Ernie
- 5. Tennis pro Williams
- 6. Part of the eye
- 7. Thai currency
- 8. Fancy neckwear
- 9. Was optimistic
- 10. Source of water in the desert
- 11. Songbird variety
- 14. “\_\_-di-dah”
- 18. Present falsely
- 21. Great sadness
- 22. Red, in Italian
- 24. Musk of SpaceX
- 26. Short sleeps
- 27. Web addresses
- 28. Make a payment
- 29. 2008 Pixar film
- 30. Surname in violinmaking
- 33. Polaris

1	2	3	4		5	6	7			8	9	10	11	
12					13			14		15				
16					17				18		19			
20				21						22				
		23	24					25						
26	27					28	29	30						
31						32						33	34	35
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41				42	43					44				
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	48	49						50						
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58					59						60			
61						62					63			
64							65				66			

Previous solution

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C	R	E	T	E		L	A	T	E			N	A	P	A
R	E	A	V	E	S	O	Y		D	O	C				
E	D	M		T	K	O		D	V	D			B	O	W
				D	P	A	D		O	E	D		A	R	A
			O	I	E		S	A	H	L			A	R	C
	S	C	R	A	M	B	L	E	D	E	G	G	S		
B	A	H	T		O	I	T	A		N	E	E			
F	I	R		O	T	T		L	O	T	S				
A	L	E		W	E	E		B	A	R		A	H	A	
				C	E	L		C	I	T	E	D	B	E	N
F	E	T	A		T	O	U	R			N	O	B	L	Y
A	M	O	R		E	X	E	D			C	H	O	P	
Q	U	I	D		E	O	S				H	A	T		



# TAKE IT OVER



election day is  
**Saturday, October 24**  
advance voting  
**October 15 - 21**

**TAKEITOVER.CA**